AMAZING ADVENTURES
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AMAZING ADVENTURES™

FEATURING

THE BEAST™

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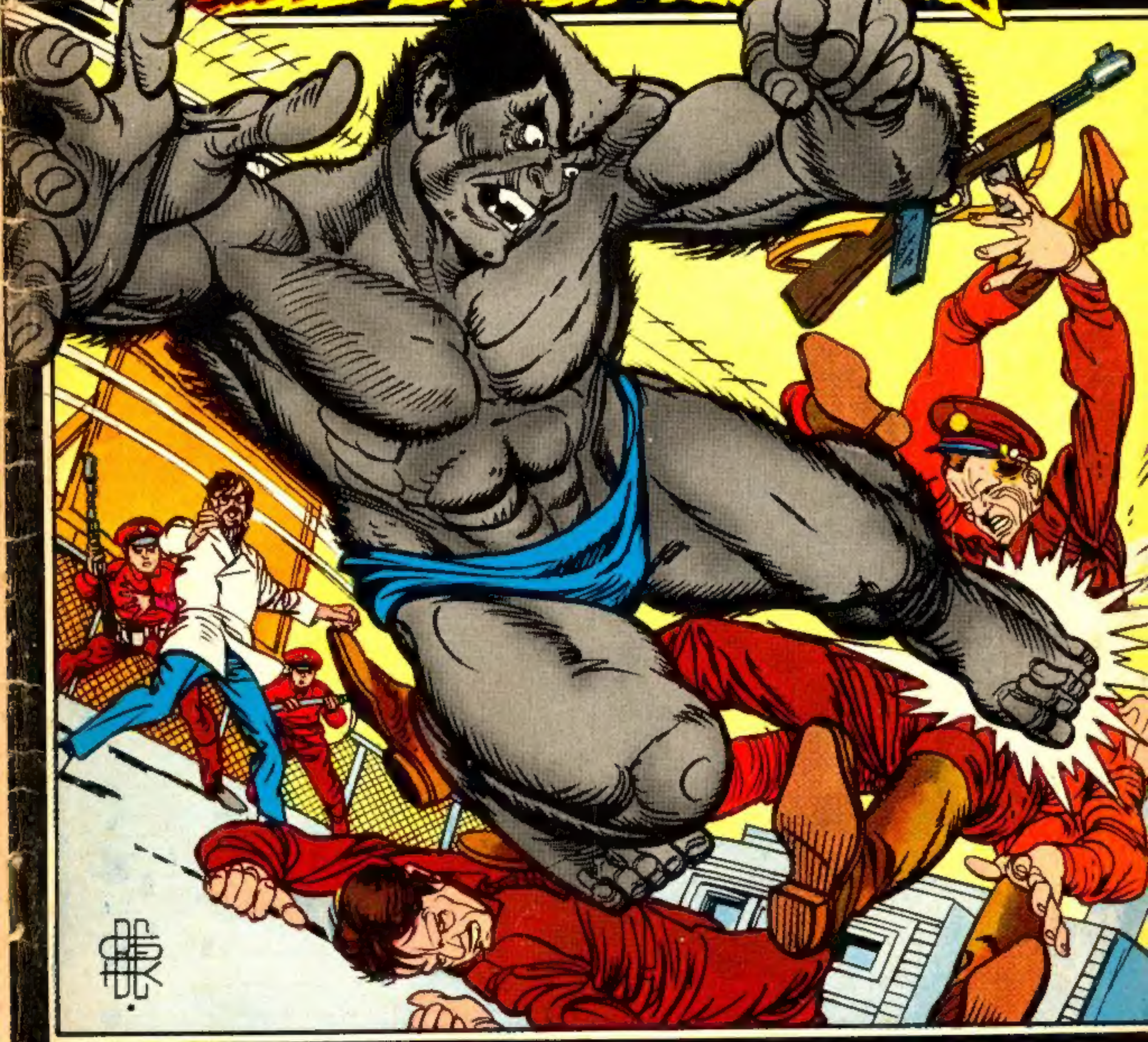

LO! A BEAST IS BORN!

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GENETIC RESEARCH SUBDIVISION 12
CLASSIFIED
HOME FREE, BENNIE ---NO MORE TROUBLES, NO MORE BLASTED LOANS.
HOME FREE!

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HE'S SO LIGHT--
YOU'RE SURPRISED AT WHAT LITTLE EFFORT IT TAKES-- TO THROW HIM---
--TO WATCH HIM SPIN LIKE A FLY IN WATER!
HRAF
DON'T-- DO--- IT---!
I SAID--- DON'T FIRE THAT GUN--!
KHOW!
IT-- IT TALKS --LORD IN HEAVEN --THE--THING-- TALKS!
HE'S GIBBERING NOW, HIS MIND BROKEN. BUT THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU-- YOU FEEL AGONY WHERE THE BULLET CREASED--
GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER-- WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT---
HANK, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
DARKNESS FALLS AWAY, AND YOU SEE AGAIN. YOUR SKULL THROBS, BUT NOW THE PAIN IS LESSENING---YOU LOOK UP...
YOU'RE-- NOT REAL! YOU CAN'T BE REAL--
I'VE GOTTA-- GOTTA KILL YOU-- CAN'T LET YOU GET CLOSER--
--WAIT --YOU DON'T--
AND THE PAIN AGAIN-- FIRES LIT BENEATH YOUR CHEST-- A MILLION FIRES--!
AAAAAAAA

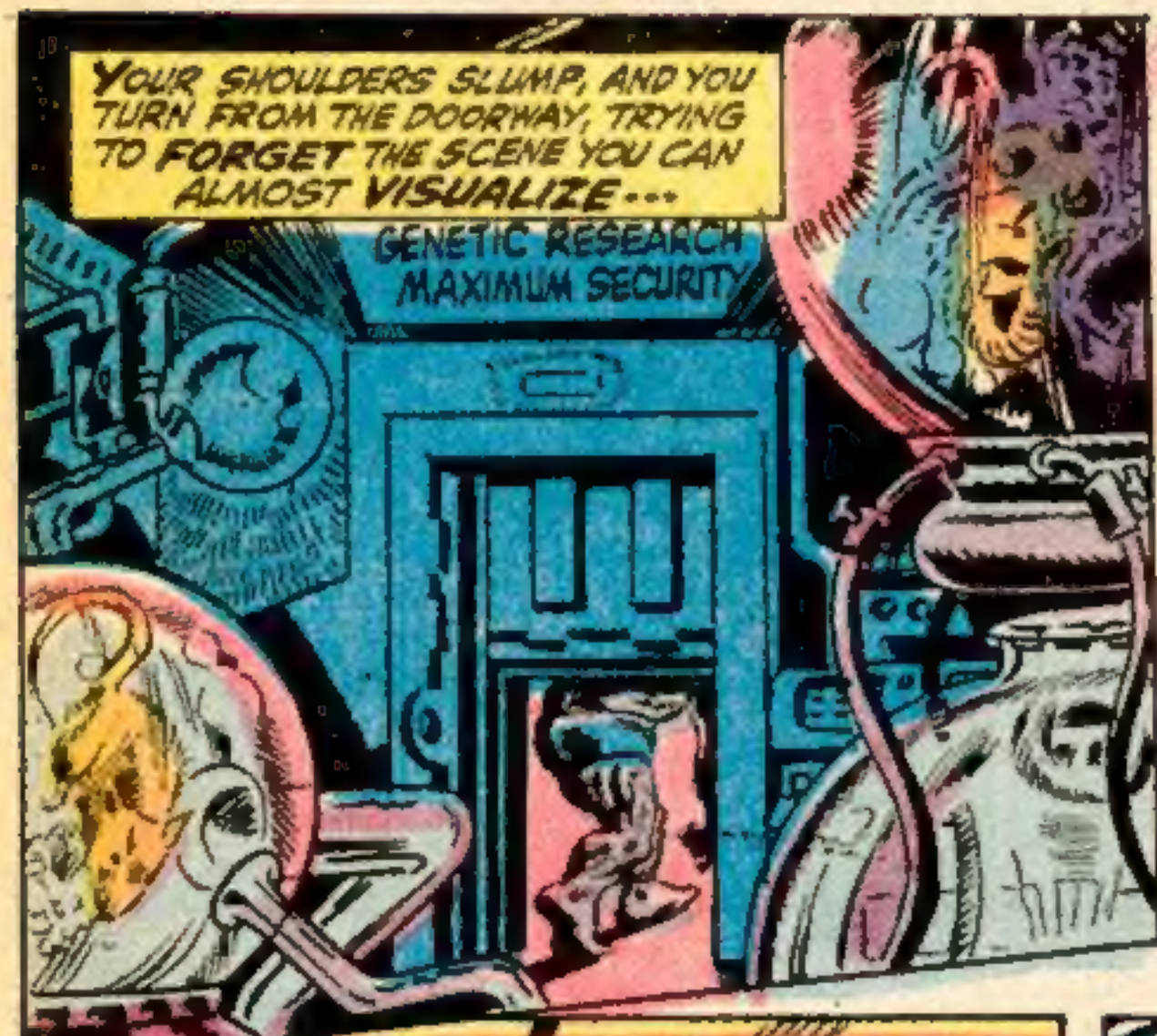
MADDENED, YOU STRIKE OUT!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SHOOT--
..I TOLD YOU!

OUTSIDE--- SOLDIERS! THEY MUST HAVE TRACKED THE ALARM!
THEN--IT WASN'T NECESSARY!

RAGE BUILDS WITHIN YOU, AND YOU STUMBLE AWAY FROM THE FALLING SPY. AROUND YOU, GUNS ROAR--- YOU SEE THE FLARE OF BULLETS FIRE THE NIGHT SKY--
BETTER GET OUT OF HERE--- FAST!

BEFORE YOU, THE DOORS LOOM WIDE. HALF-BLINDED BY FURY, YOU SWING WITHIN---
THEY WOULD HAVE CAUGHT HIM ANYWAY! I DIDN'T NEED TO PLAY HERO---!
BUT THAT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER..

---I'M SAFE NOW---! SAFE, AND NO HARM DONE!



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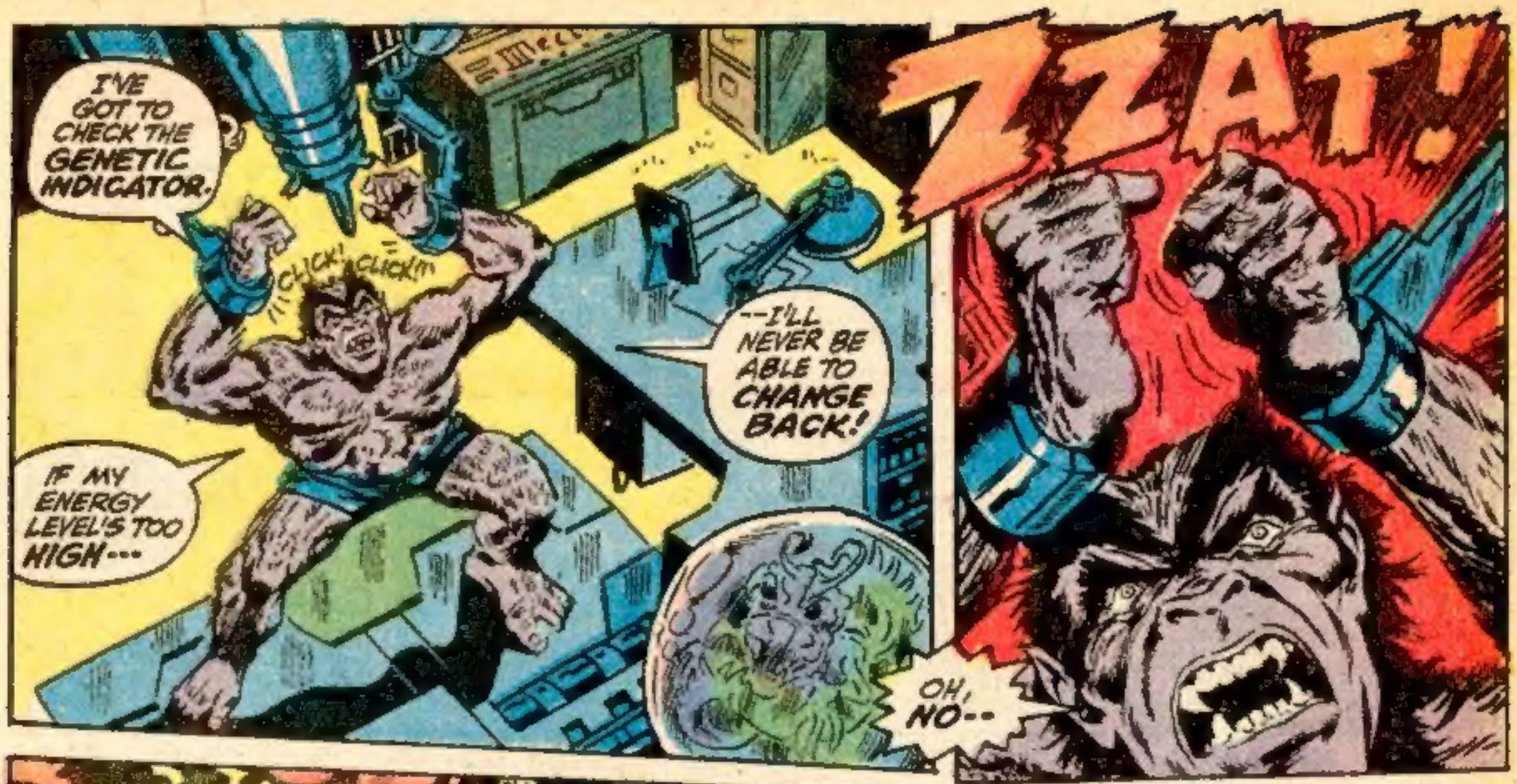
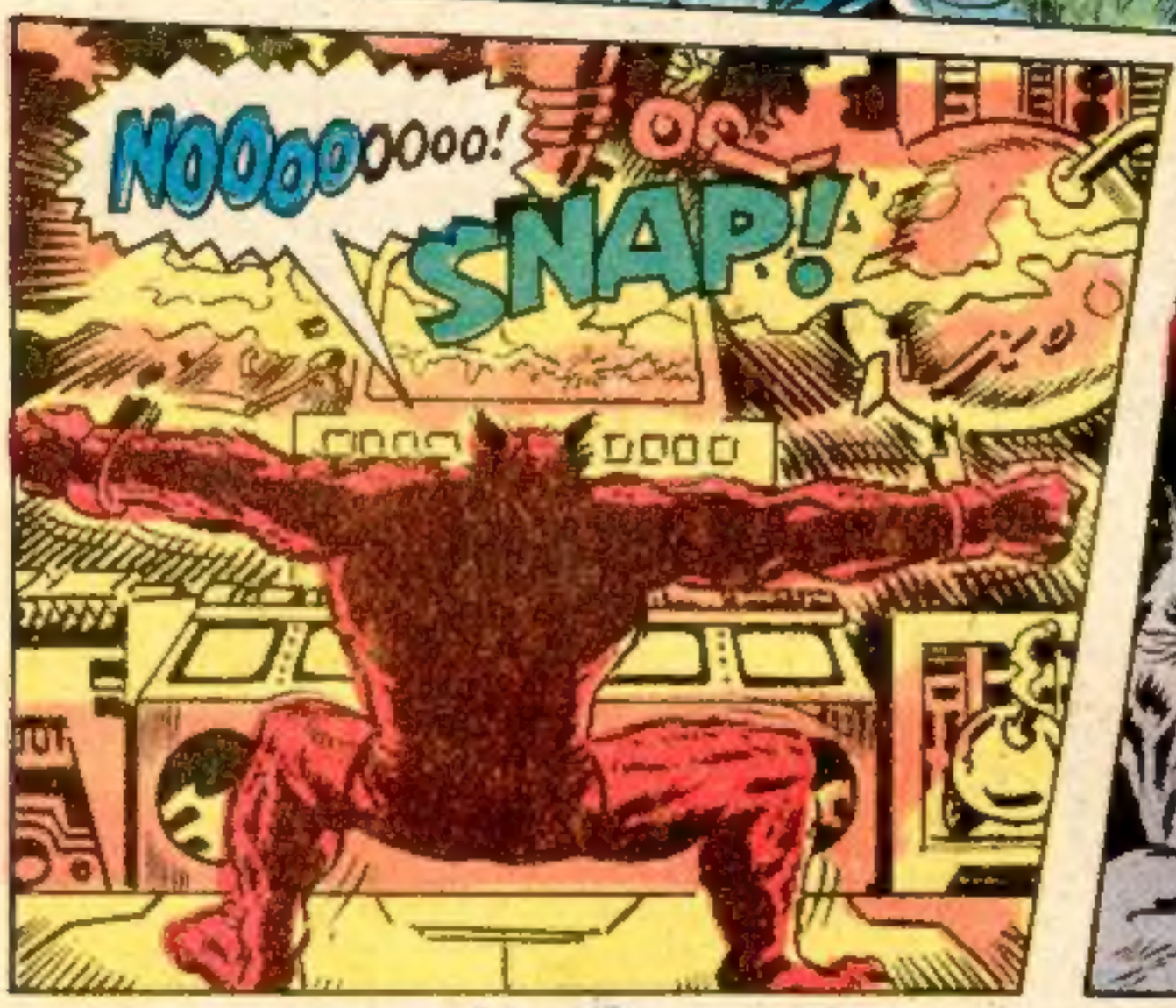

I'VE GOT TO CHECK THE GENETIC INDICATOR.
CLICK! CLICK!
--I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE BACK!
IF MY ENERGY LEVEL'S TOO HIGH---
ZZAT!
OH, NO--

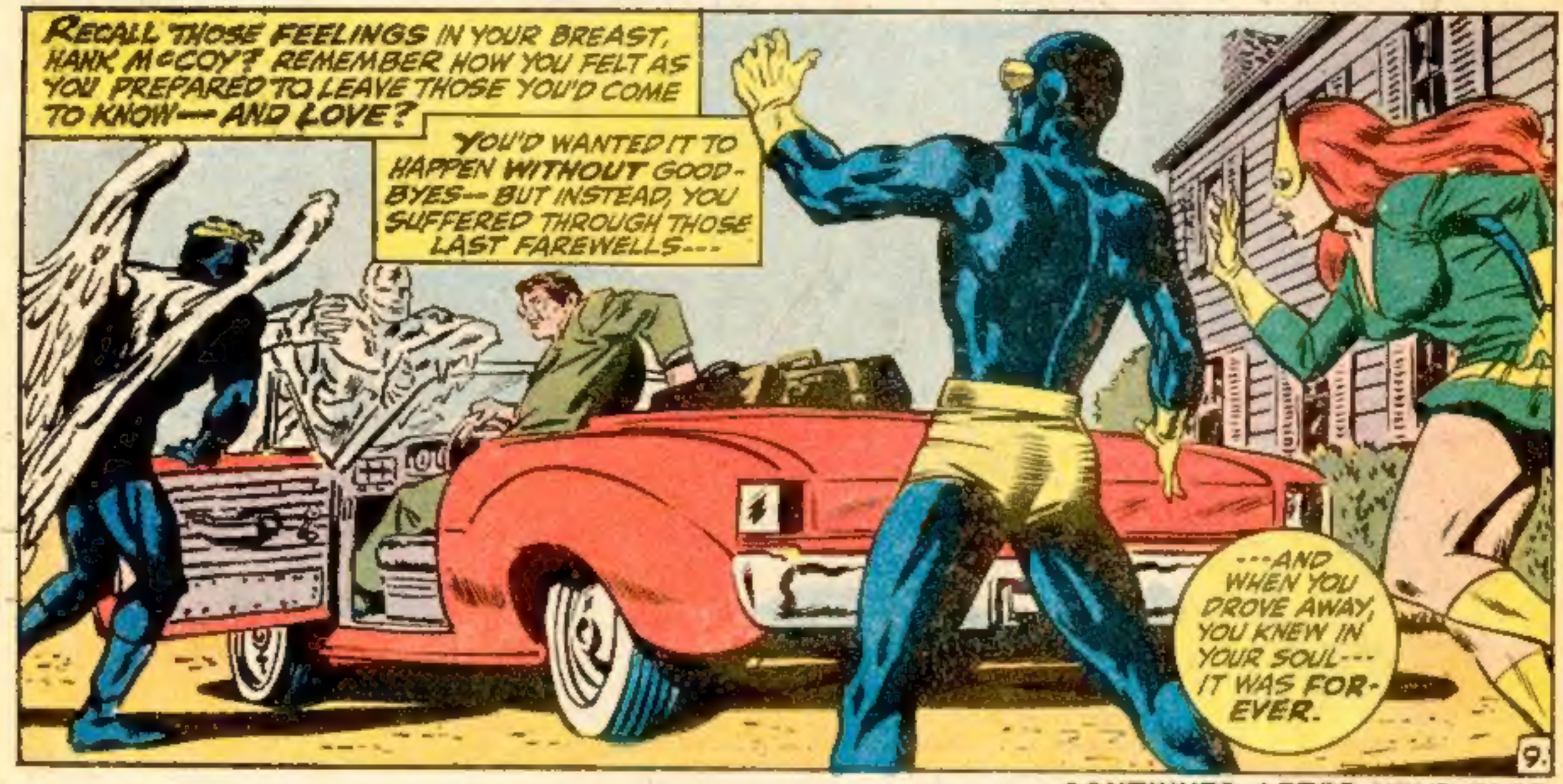

NOOOOOOOO!
SNAP!

THE CHEMICAL PROCESSES ARE COMPLETE. THE METAMORPHOSIS IS-- IRREVERSIBLE!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SUCH A FOOL?
HOW?

DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY--
SMASH!
DON'T TELL ME HOW WRONG I WAS--I KNOW, BLAST IT-- I KNOW!

EVERYTHING I COULD HAVE BEEN---EVERYTHING WE WERE TOGETHER---IS GONE---
ALL--- ALL OF IT--- WASTED!
I'M NOTHING--- BUT A BEAST!

YOU FEEL THE SALTY STING ACROSS YOUR CHEEKS, BUT YOU IGNORE IT---
WHATEVER YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN, HANK McCOY---IS GONE NOW, AS MUCH A PART OF YOUR PAST AS THAT SHATTERED PICTURE. YOU GROPE FOR THE BROKEN REMAINS, AS THOUGH TO GATHER UP WHAT LITTLE IS NOW LEFT TO YOU---AND PERHAPS, TO GATHER YOUR MEMORIES---OF HOW IT ALL BEGAN:
HANK McCOY-- I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE THE FIRST TO LEAVE-- SNEAKING OFF WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE IS NO WAY TO TREAT OLD FRIENDS.
EASY, JEAN. I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HANK FOR TRYING TO VANISH UN-HERALDED---
WE ARE MAKING IT A BIT UNCOMFORT-ABLE FOR HIM, YOU KNOW!
STATING IT MILDLY, MY MUTANT COMPEERS--
-- I'M RATHER OVERWHELMED.
FOR YOU, BIG WORDS --THAT'S REALLY MILD.
WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU, BUDDY!
ON BEHALF OF THE X-MEN, HANK, I'D LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL POSSIBLE LUCK IN YOUR NEW POSITION.
THAT'S ALSO ON BEHALF OF MYSELF! YOU WERE ONE OF MY FINEST STUDENTS-- AND I'VE LITTLE DOUBT YOU'LL DO WELL AT THE BRAND CORPORATION!
YOU REMEMBER THAT LAST DAY IN WESTCHESTER, WHEN THEY GATHERED TO BID YOU FAREWELL--- MARVEL GIRL, CYCLOPS, THE ANGEL, ICEMAN--- EVEN PROFESSOR XAVIER. YOU REMEMBER HOW HARD IT WAS TO LEAVE---
AND THIS, MISTER McCOY, IS YOUR FAREWELL KISS!
YOU KNOW WHERE TO COME TO COLLECT ANOTHER!
ACCORDING TO THIS TELE-GRAM, HANK, YOU'D BETTER HURRY.
THEY WANT TO SEE YOU BY NINE A.M.!



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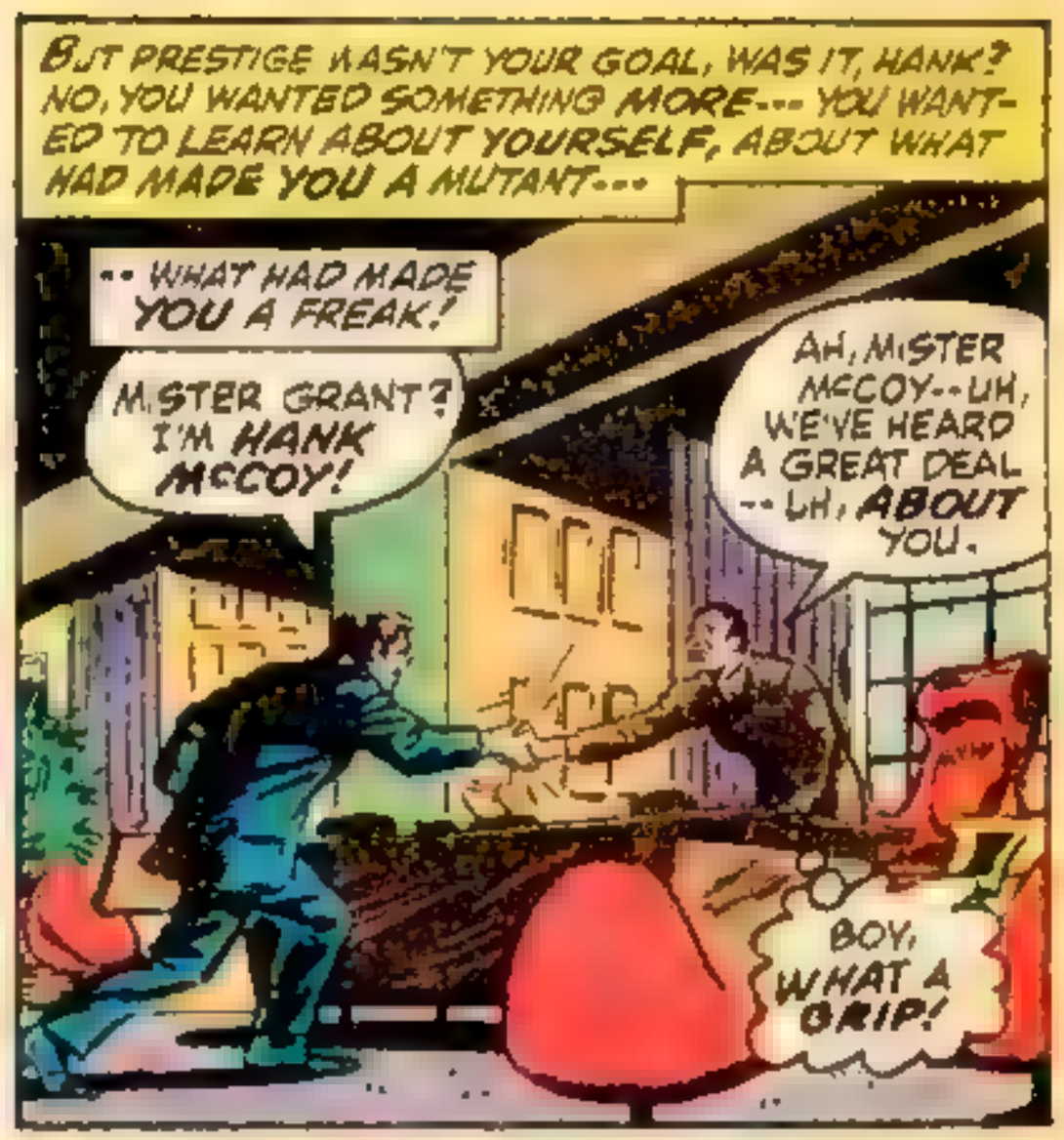
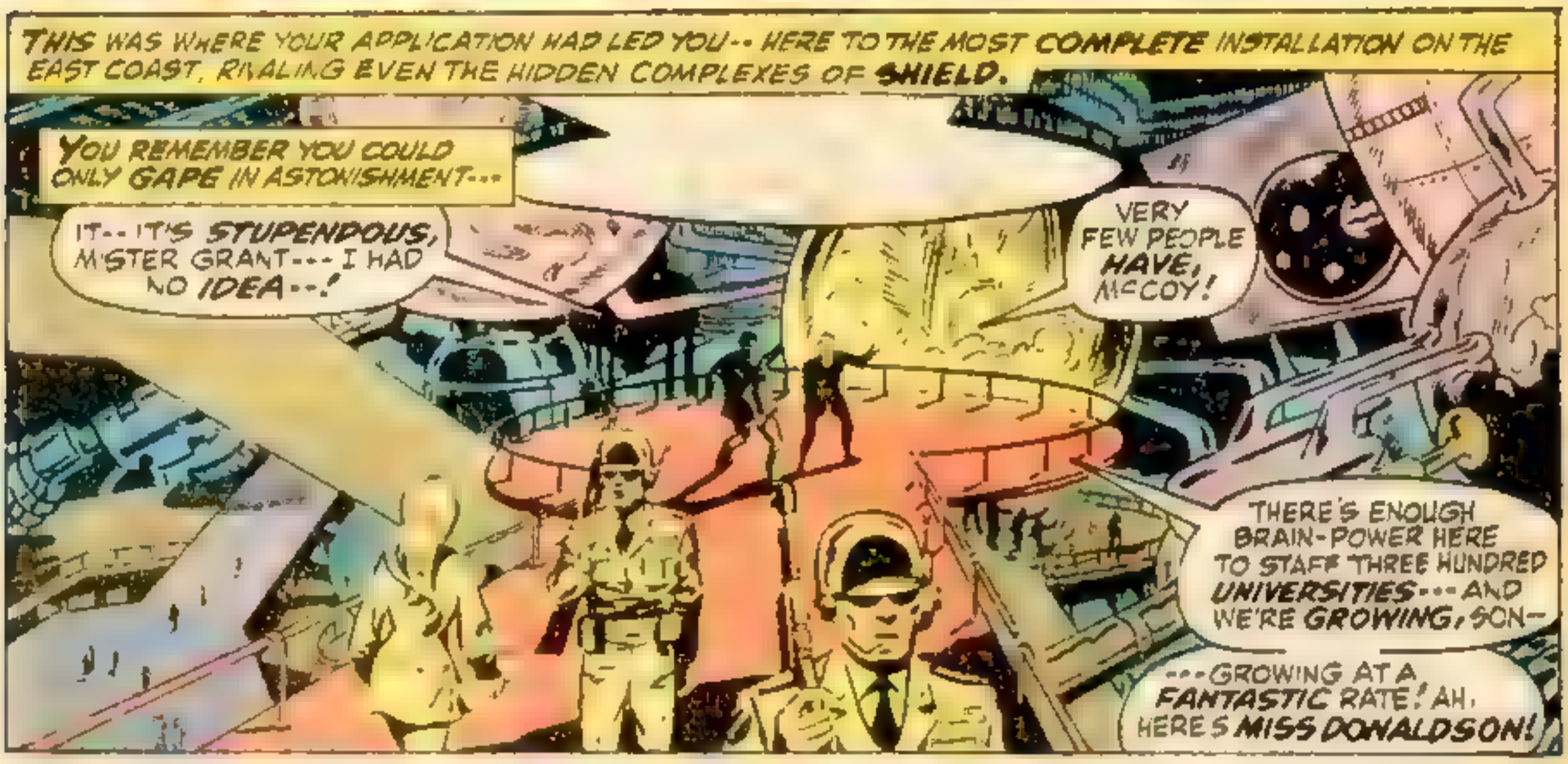
MISTER GRANT? THAT'D BE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, FRIEND. THIRD BUILDING TO THE RIGHT.
THANKS!
THE BRAND CORPORATION-- ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS IN EXISTENCE---
--AND NOW ITS EXISTENCE INCLUDES-- HANK McCOY!


BUT PRESTIGE WASN'T YOUR GOAL, WAS IT, HANK? NO, YOU WANTED SOMETHING MORE--- YOU WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF, ABOUT WHAT HAD MADE YOU A MUTANT---
--WHAT HAD MADE YOU A FREAK!
MISTER GRANT? I'M HANK McCOY!
AH, MISTER McCOY--UH, WE'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL --UH, ABOUT YOU.
BOY, WHAT A GRIP!


THIS WAS WHERE YOUR APPLICATION HAD LED YOU-- HERE TO THE MOST COMPLETE INSTALLATION ON THE EAST COAST, RIVALING EVEN THE HIDDEN COMPLEXES OF SHIELD.
YOU REMEMBER YOU COULD ONLY GAPE IN ASTONISHMENT---
IT--IT'S STUPENDOUS, MISTER GRANT--- I HAD NO IDEA--!
VERY FEW PEOPLE HAVE, McCOY!
THERE'S ENOUGH BRAIN-POWER HERE TO STAFF THREE HUNDRED UNIVERSITIES--- AND WE'RE GROWING, SON--
---GROWING AT A FANTASTIC RATE! AH, HERE'S MISS DONALDSON!

SHE'LL BE ASSISTING YOU IN YOUR WORK WITH PROFESSOR MADDICKS, McCOY.
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE, SIR.
--ONE ALL MINE, MISS DONALDSON.

MISTER McCOY, YOU'LL TURN MY HEAD.
I'M NOT SURE PROFESSOR MADDICKS WOULD APPROVE AT ALL!

HE DOESN'T, MISS DONALDSON.
GET ONE THING, STRAIGHT, McCOY-- I DON'T ASK FOR YOU---
--AND I DON'T NEED ANY HELP--!
SIR, I--

QUIET! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUNGLING--
I HAVE ALL THE ASSISTANCE I---
PROFESSOR, PLEASE. MR. McCOY WILL BE WORKING INDEPENDENTLY---
--ON A PRIVATELY-FUNDED PROJECT OF HIS OWN.
THEN DO THIS, McCOY--LEAVE ME ALONE!

AND LATER---
HE'S BEEN UNDER A TERRIBLE STRAIN THESE PAST FEW DAYS---!
YOU MUSTN'T LET THE PROFESSOR'S TEMPER UPSET YOU, HANK.
IT'S OBVIOUS, MISS DONALDSON, BUT DON'T WORRY---
--I'M NOT FLUSTERED BY BUCOLIC OGRES!
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

REMEMBER, HANK McCOY? REMEMBER HOW IT ALL SEEMED LIKE A DREAM---?
ENOUGH FOR TODAY, HANK. IT'S SEVEN O'CLOCK.
WHAT SAY YOU TAKE A LADY OUT TO DINNER?
NAME THE INSTITUTION, MISS DONALDSON---!

LIKE A DREAM, HANK---ALL THE DREAMS YOU'VE EVER HAD---
THE WAY SHE LOOKED AT YOU, HER GROWING SMILE---
--YOU NEVER HAD A CHANCE, HANK--AND YOU KNEW IT.

---THE BEACH. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN LONG ISLAND SOUND AT NIGHT, HANK?
LONG ISLAND AND I ARE STRANGERS, MISS DONALDSON.
MY NAME'S LINDA, HANK.

THERE WAS A BREEZE, SOFT AND SALTY, UP FROM THE MOONLIT SHORE. NORTH SHORE GLISTENED LIKE A BEACH OF DIAMOND CRYSTALS---
---BUT YOU HARDLY NOTICED IT; YOUR MIND WAS ON OTHER THINGS.

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, THERE'D BEEN MOMENTS LIKE THIS -- BRIEF INSTANTS WHEN YOU DIDN'T THINK OR CARE ABOUT THE MISSHAPEN BODY YOUR TAILORED CLOTHING HID!

YOU LAUGHED WHEN SHE LAUGHED, AND RAN BEHIND HER, FEELING THE SAND SLIDE AND CRUNCH BENEATH YOUR FEET, A COOL WIND BRUSHING THE HAIR FROM YOUR BROW--

YOU FELT THE NIGHT, AS YOU'D NEVER FELT AN EVENING BEFORE...

ADMIT IT, HANK McCOY -- YOU'RE INORDINATELY PLEASED WITH YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?

AND WHY NOT?

A GIRL -- A BEAUTIFUL GIRL -- AND SHE LOVES YOU--

AND YOU LOVE HER, DON'T YOU, SIR?

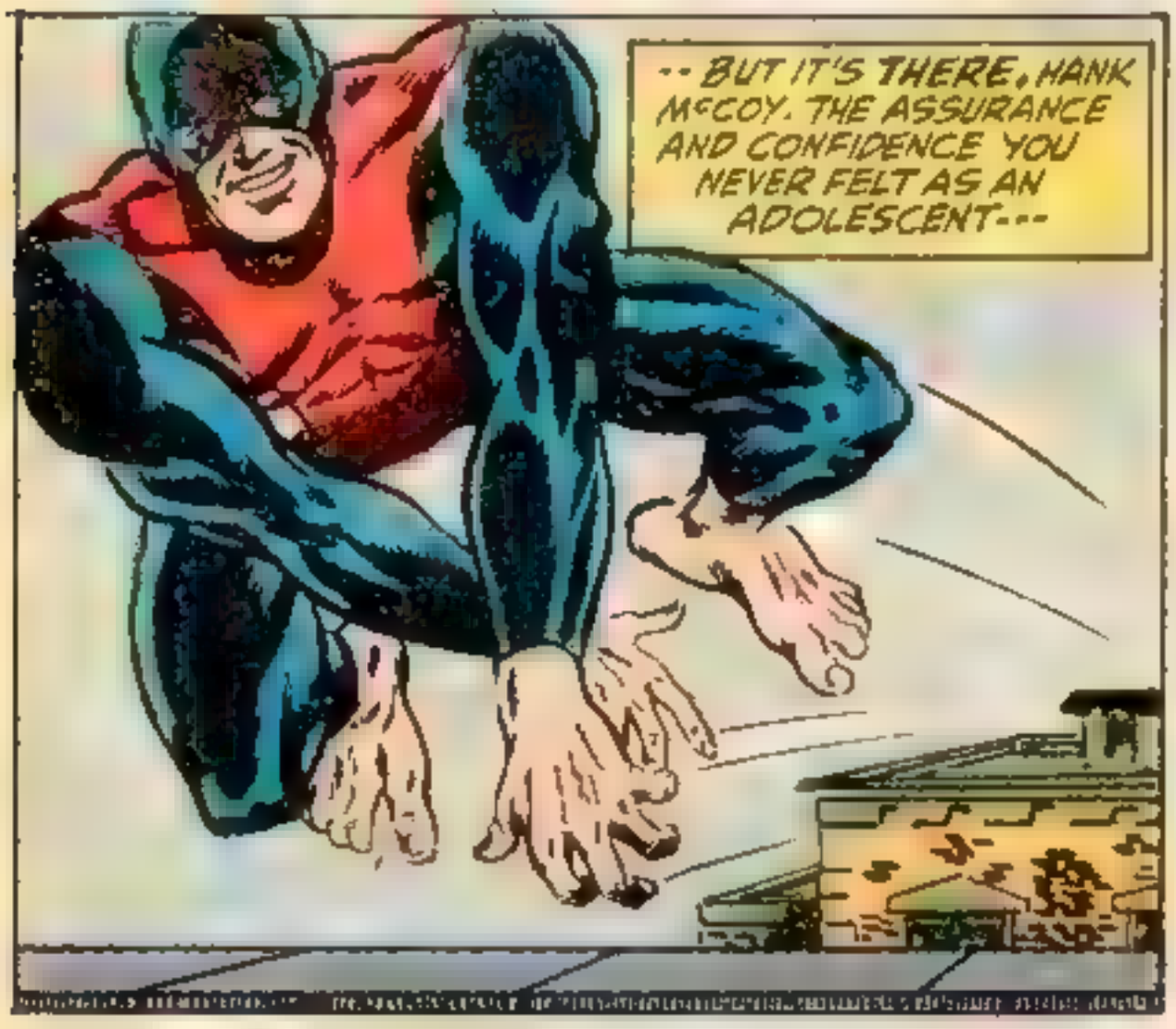
AH, IT'S A LOVELY WORLD--

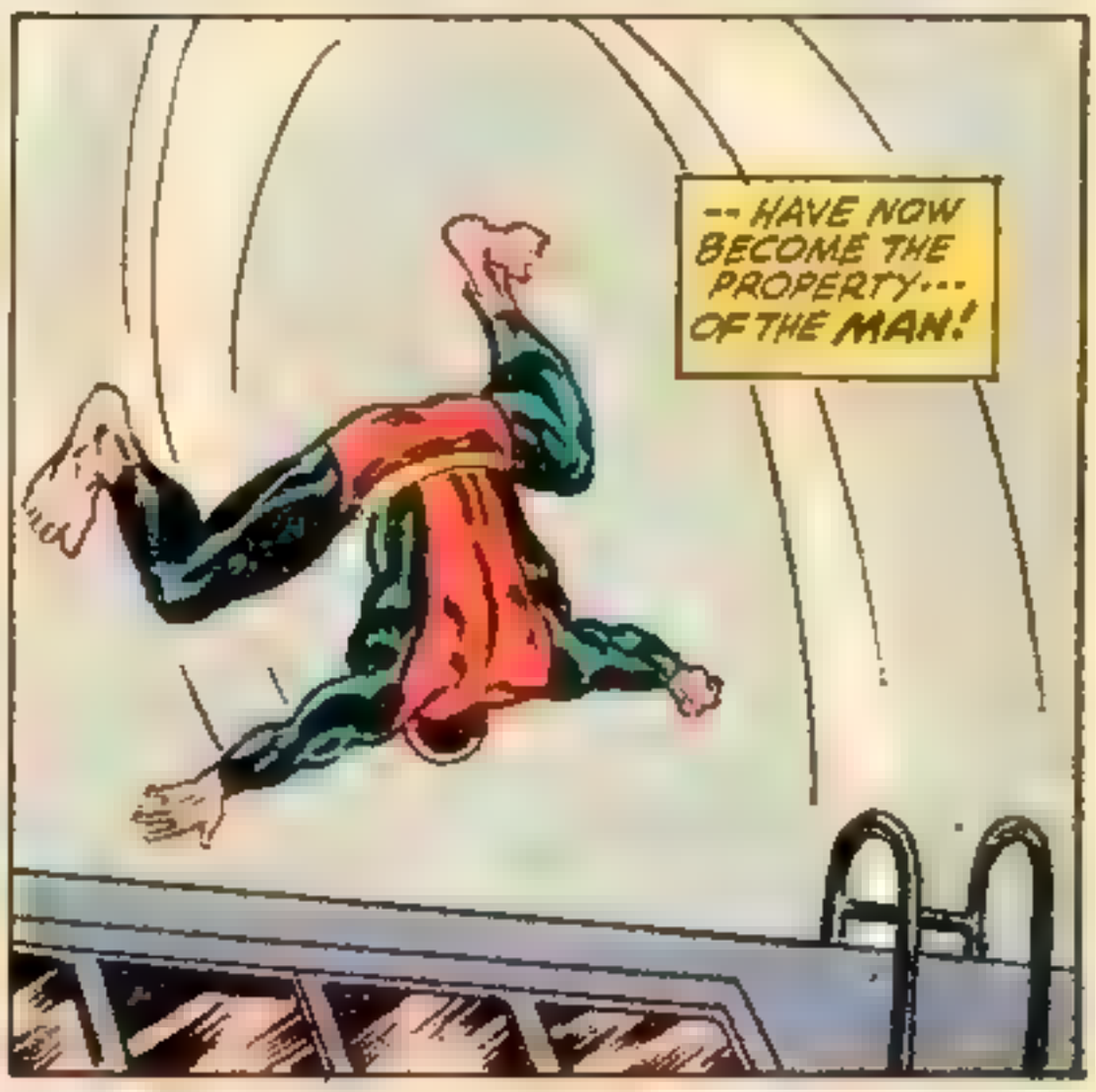
--A TRULY FINE UNIVERSE--

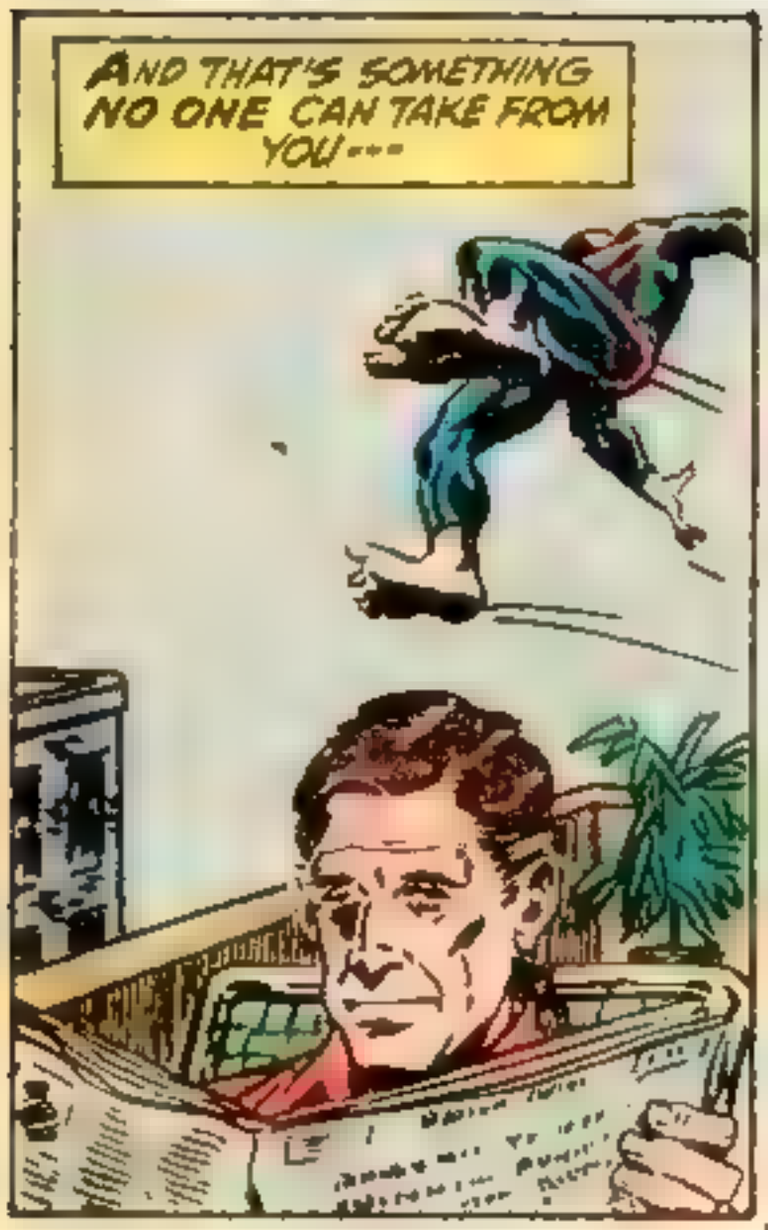
--AND IT'S MINE --ALL MINE!

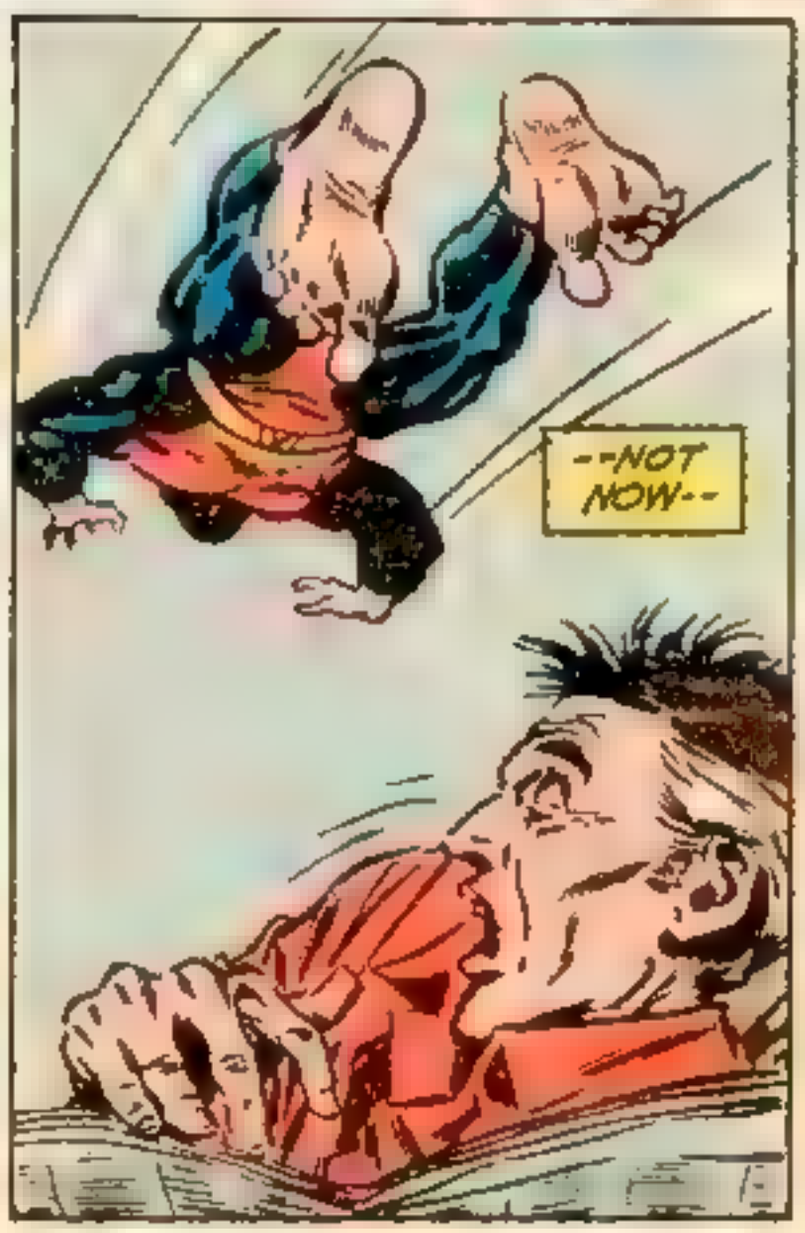
IT WAS THEN THAT IT STOPPED, WASN'T IT, HANK? THE YEARS OF TRYING TO BE SOMEONE YOU WEREN'T..?

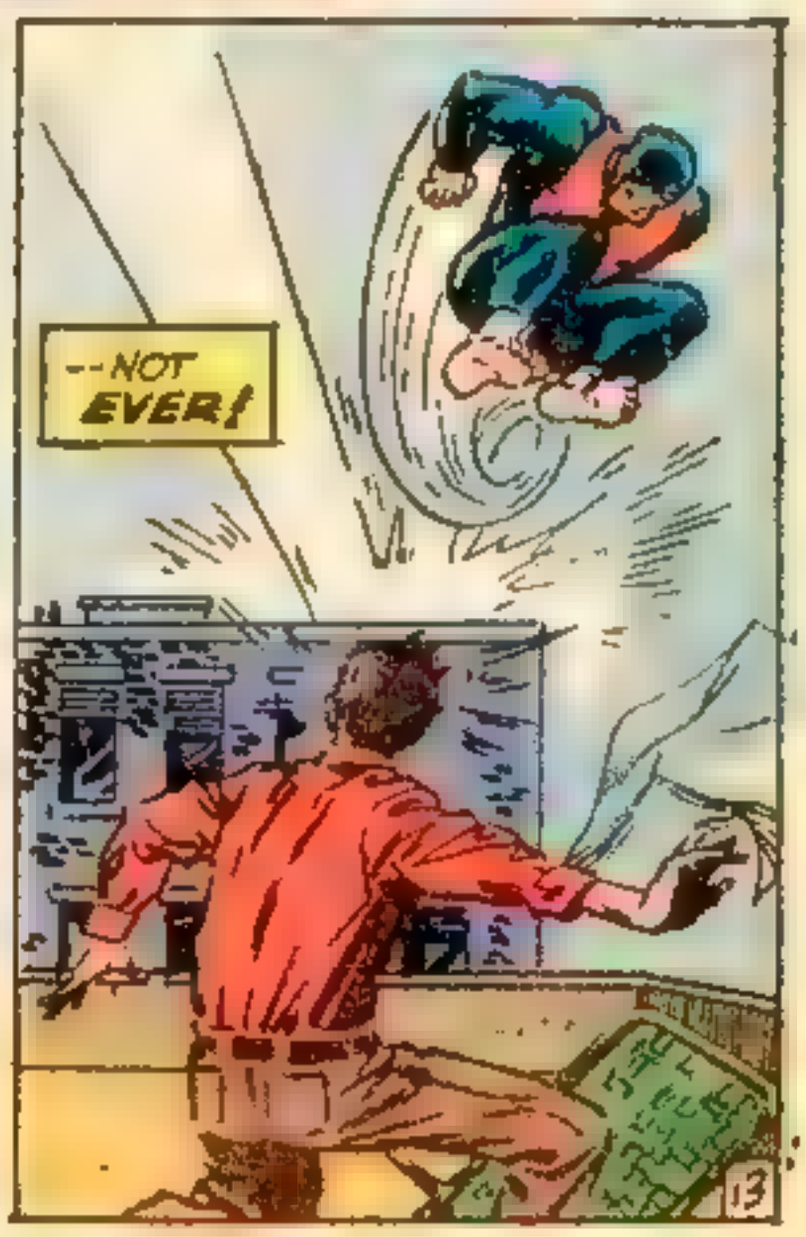
YOU NEVER NOTICED THE CHANGE IN YOURSELF--- PERHAPS EVEN NOW, YOU STILL DON'T REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU---


--BUT IT'S THERE, HANK McCOY. THE ASSURANCE AND CONFIDENCE YOU NEVER FELT AS AN ADOLESCENT---


--HAVE NOW BECOME THE PROPERTY--- OF THE MAN!


AND THAT'S SOMETHING NO ONE CAN TAKE FROM YOU---


--NOT NOW--


--NOT EVER!

IN THE WEEKS WHICH FOLLOWED THAT FIRST EVENING WITH LINDA, YOU THREW YOURSELF INTO YOUR WORK--- THE STUDY OF YOUR OWN GENETIC STRUCTURE---

PROFESSOR MADDICKS, I ASSURE YOU---

--MISTER GRANT KNOWS THE SPECIFICS OF THIS PROJECT--

--AND IT'S TO HIM, AND HIM ALONE, THAT I'M RESPONSIBLE.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, THIS CELL DIAGRAM HAS TO BE PROGRAMMED IMMEDIATELY--

--AND TO DO THAT, I'LL NEED ABSOLUTE CONCENTRATION.

WHICH MEANS, I'M AFRAID, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE.

YOU'LL REGRET THAT, McCOY.

RIGHT NOW YOU'RE THE NUMBER ONE BRAIN-BOY HERE--

BUT UNDERSTAND THIS, MY FRIEND: CARL MADDICKS STILL PULLS THE CORDS WHICH MAKE GRANT DANCE---

--REGARDLESS OF HIS CURRENT ---INDISCRETIONS.

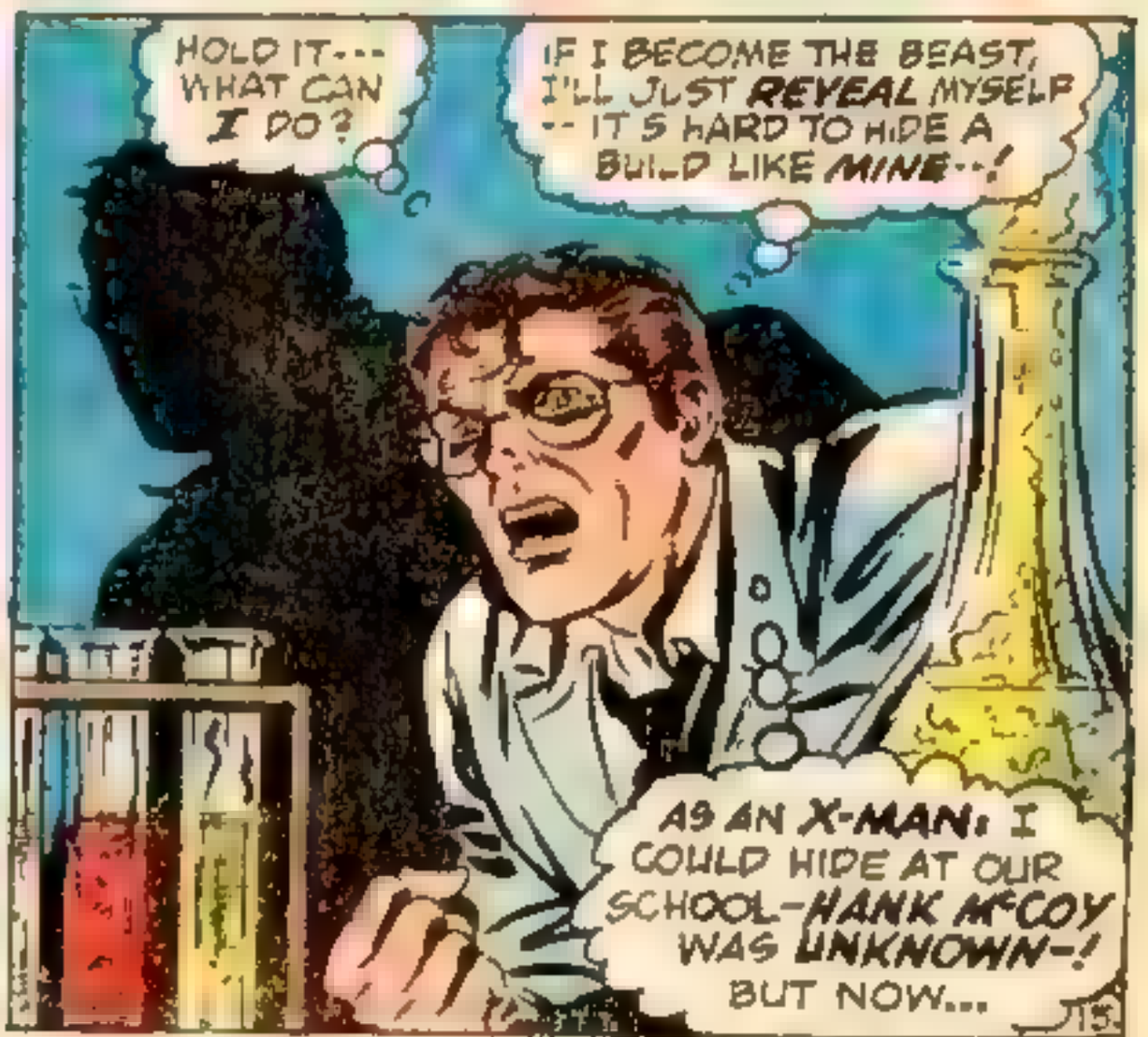
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HIM, HANK, INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THE GENETIC EXTRACTOR YOU WERE DEVELOPING---

---PERHAPS IT MIGHT HAVE SAVED YOU---FUTURE YEARS OF GRIEF!

THERE--IT'S DONE.

I'VE FINALLY DILUTED THE PRECIPITATE---

--THIS IS THE HORMONAL EXTRACT--THE CHEMICAL CAUSE OF MUTATION!



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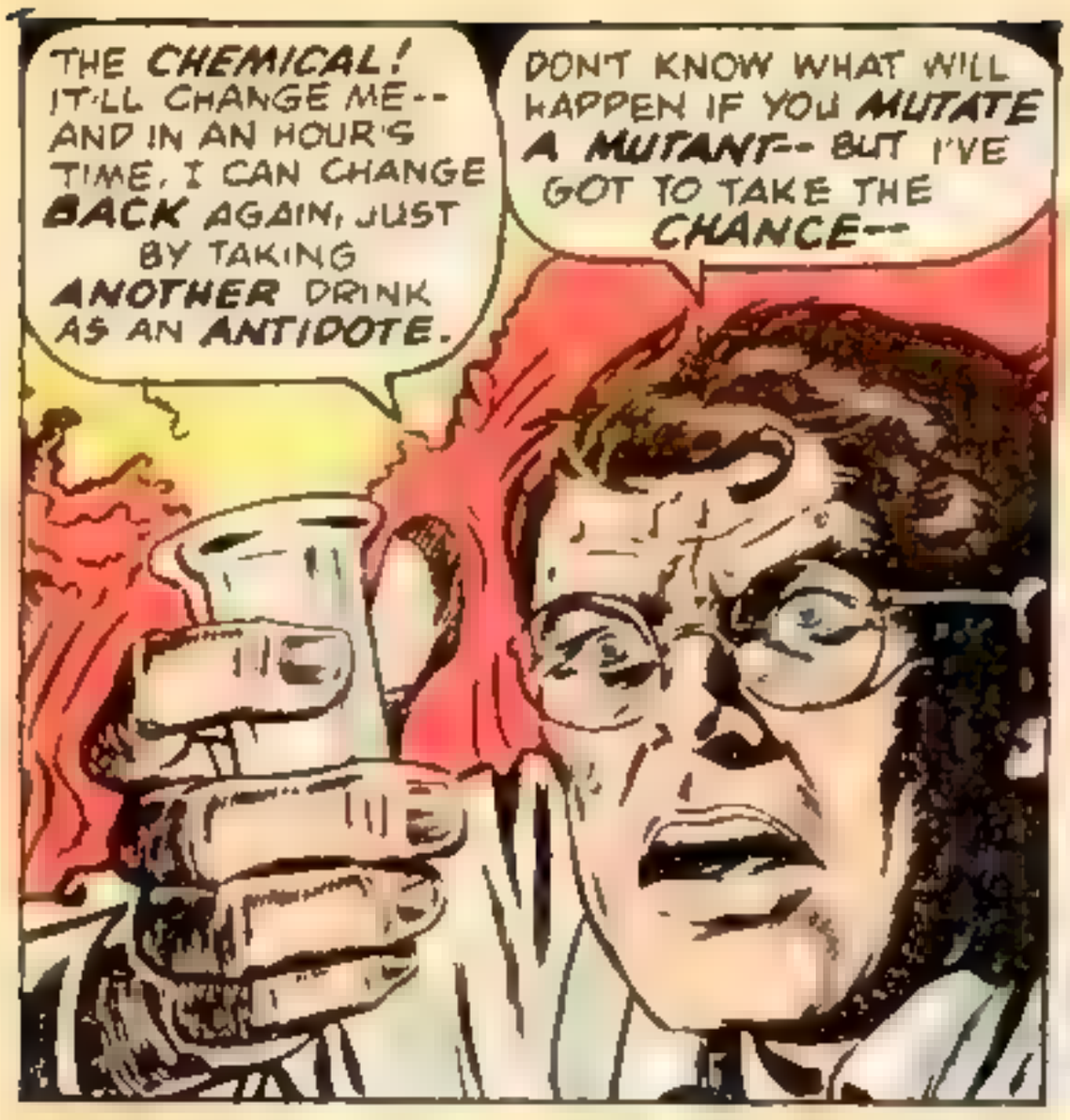
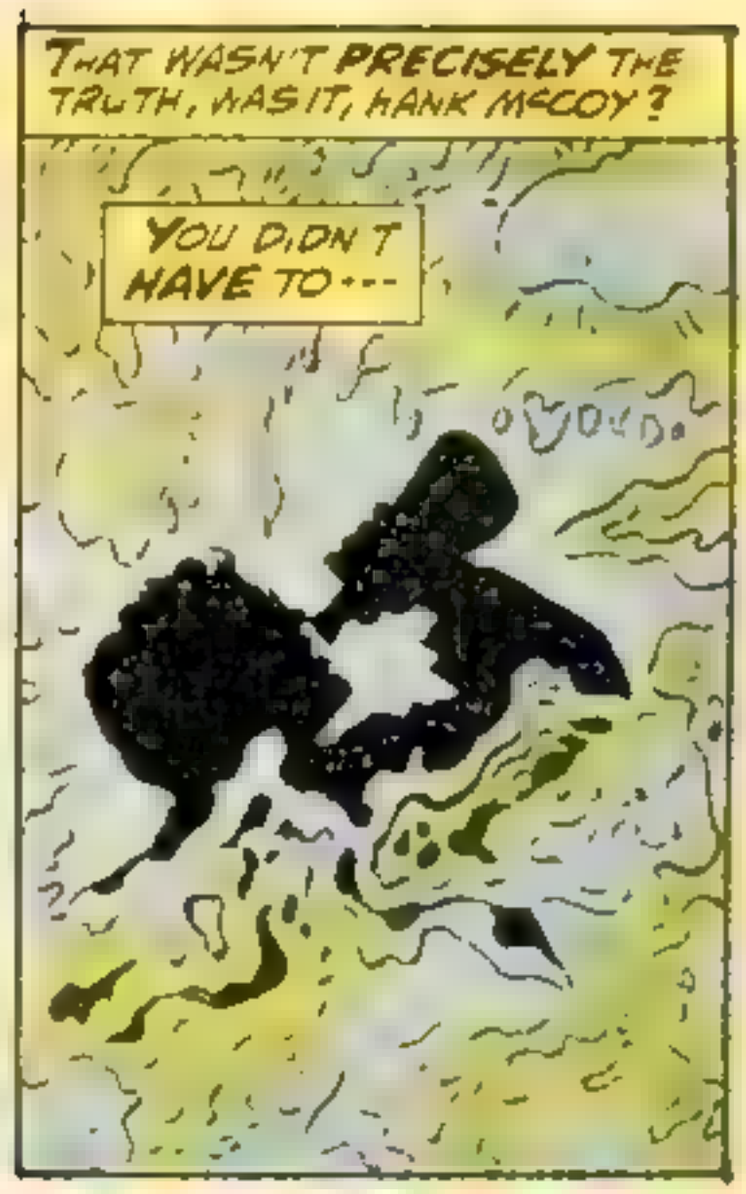

THE CHEMICAL! IT'LL CHANGE ME-- AND IN AN HOUR'S TIME, I CAN CHANGE BACK AGAIN, JUST BY TAKING ANOTHER DRINK AS AN ANTIDOTE.
DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF YOU MUTATE A MUTANT-- BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE--

---I'VE GOT TO!

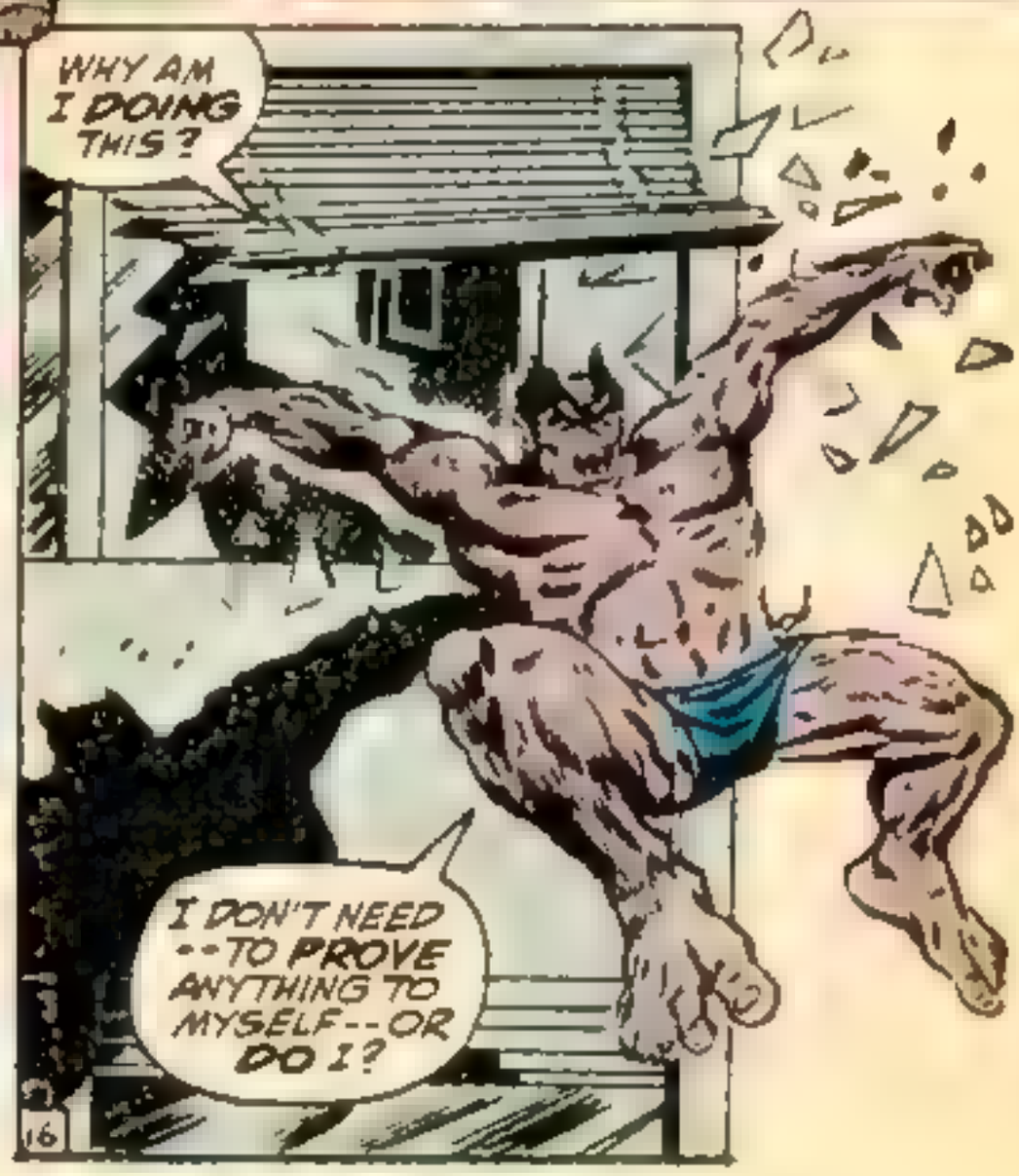

THAT WASN'T PRECISELY THE TRUTH, WAS IT, HANK McCOY?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO---

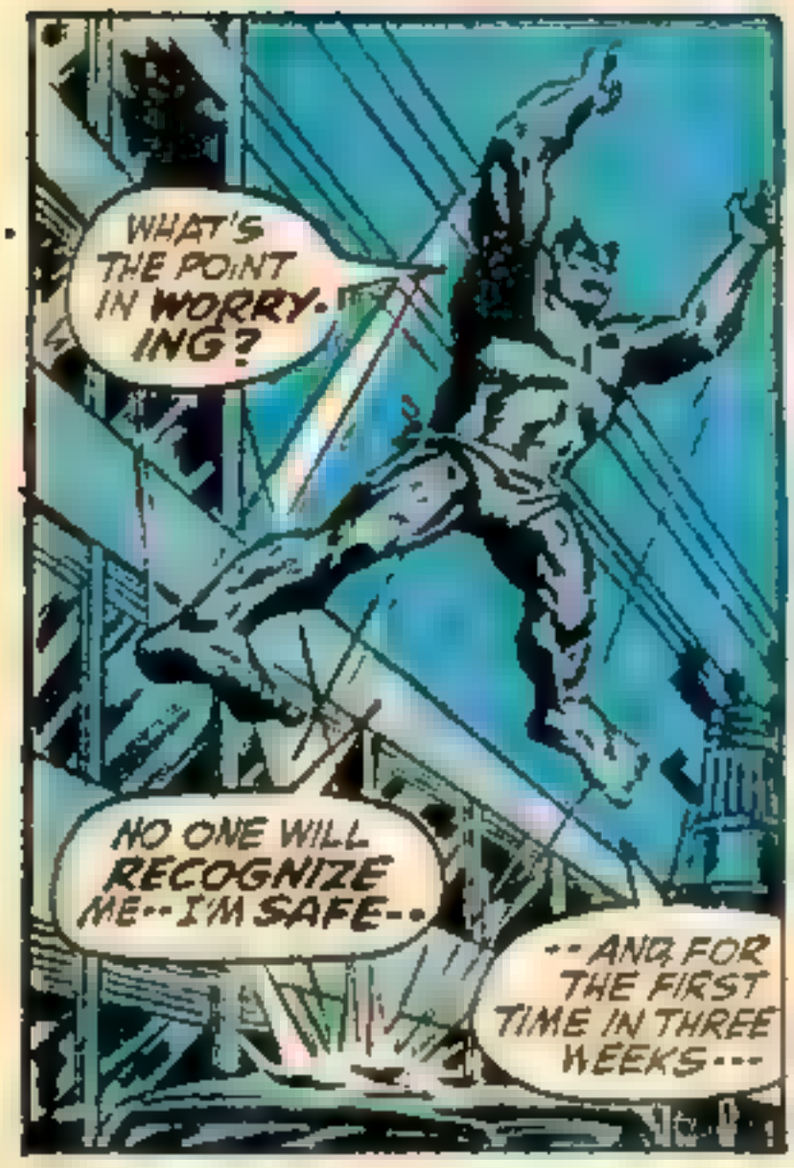
---BUT THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED EGO WHICH NOW CONTROLLED YOU TOLD YOU DIFFERENTLY...

--AND YOU TOOK THE HORMONAL EXTRACT---

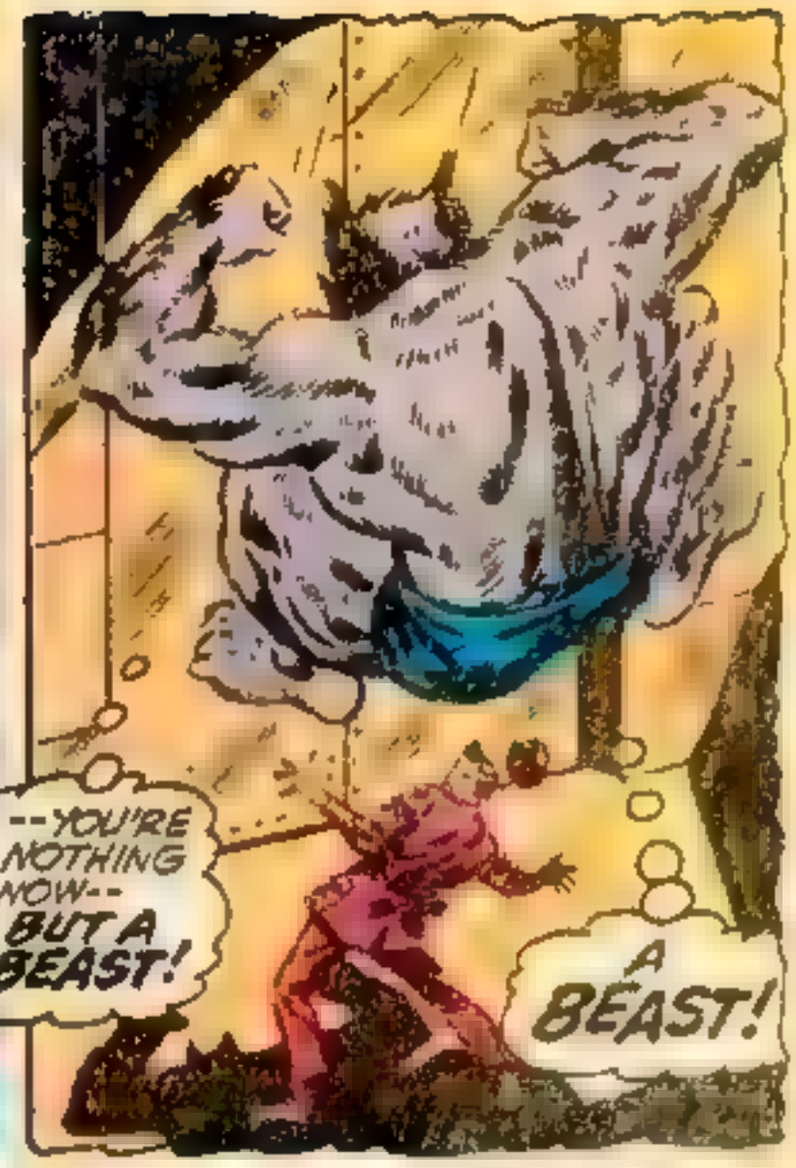
---AND YOU--- CHANGED!

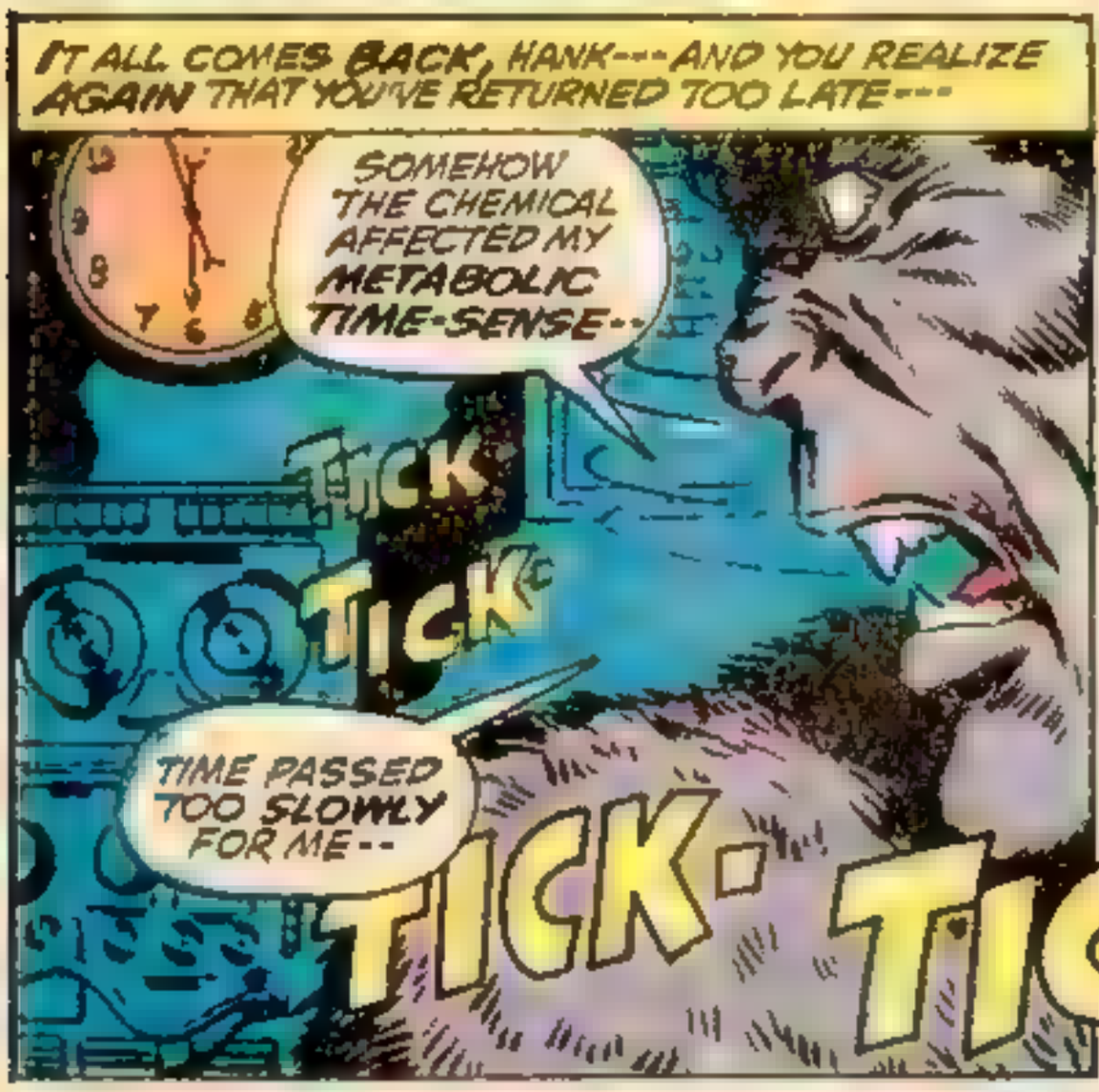
SHOULD'VE THOUGHT ABOUT CLOTHES--
--AND MAYBE, I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS!

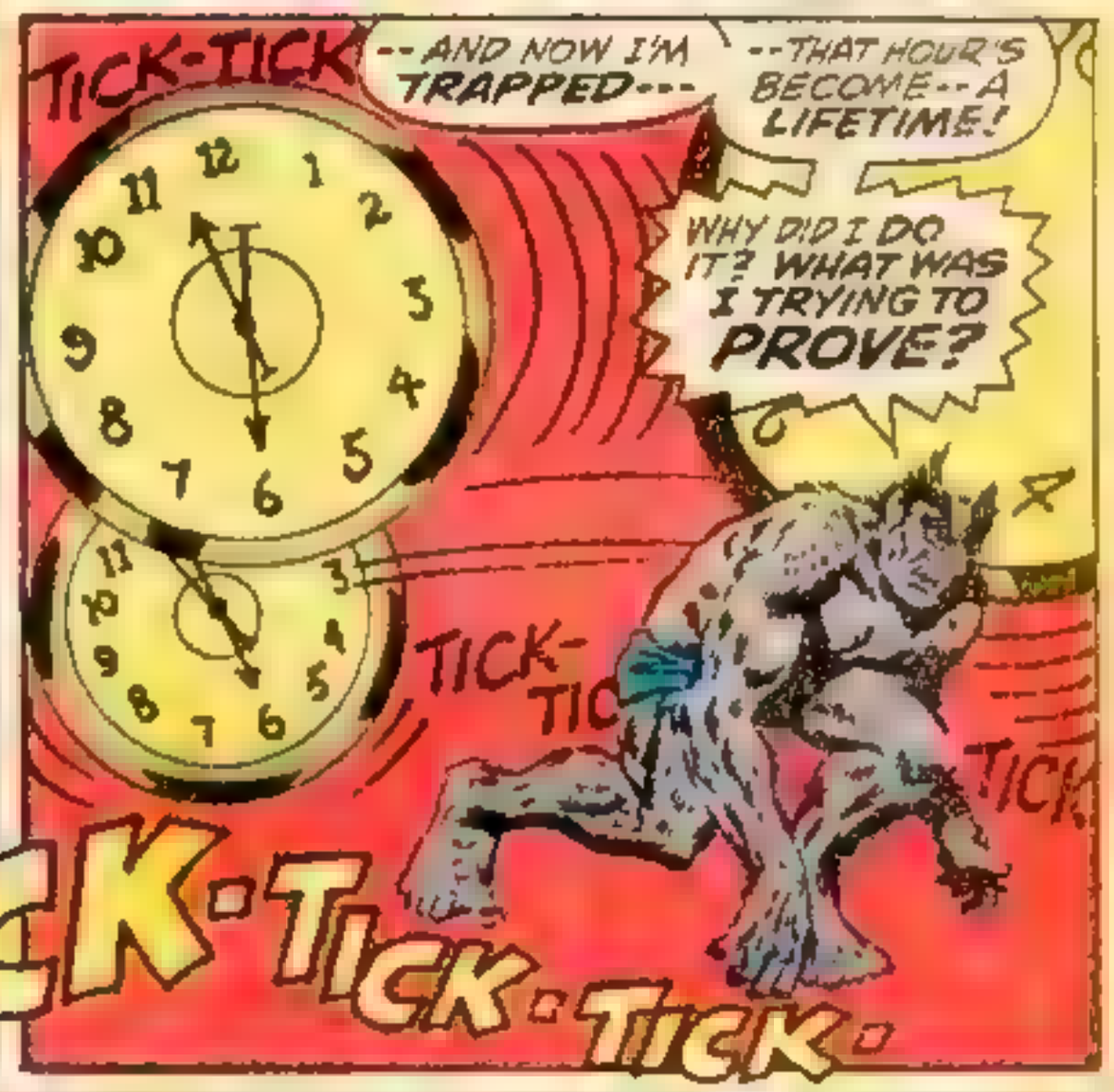

WHY AM I DOING THIS?
I DON'T NEED --TO PROVE ANYTHING TO MYSELF--OR DO I?


WHAT'S THE POINT IN WORRYING?
NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME--I'M SAFE--
--AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE WEEKS---

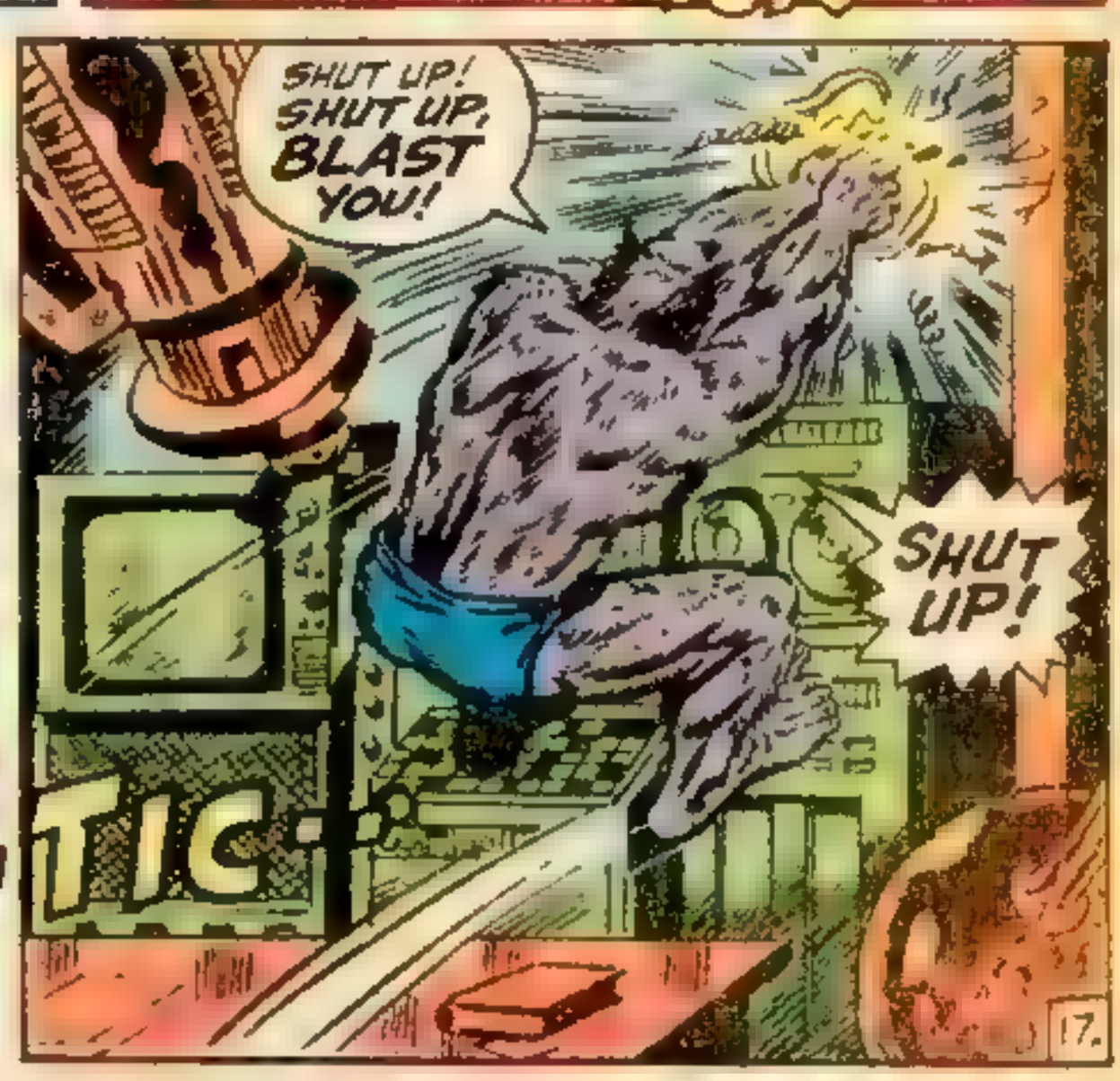
--I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN, AS THOUGH I'M DOING WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO!
HEY, HANK--- HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED?
YOU'VE STOPPED TALKING IN POLY-SYLLABLES--

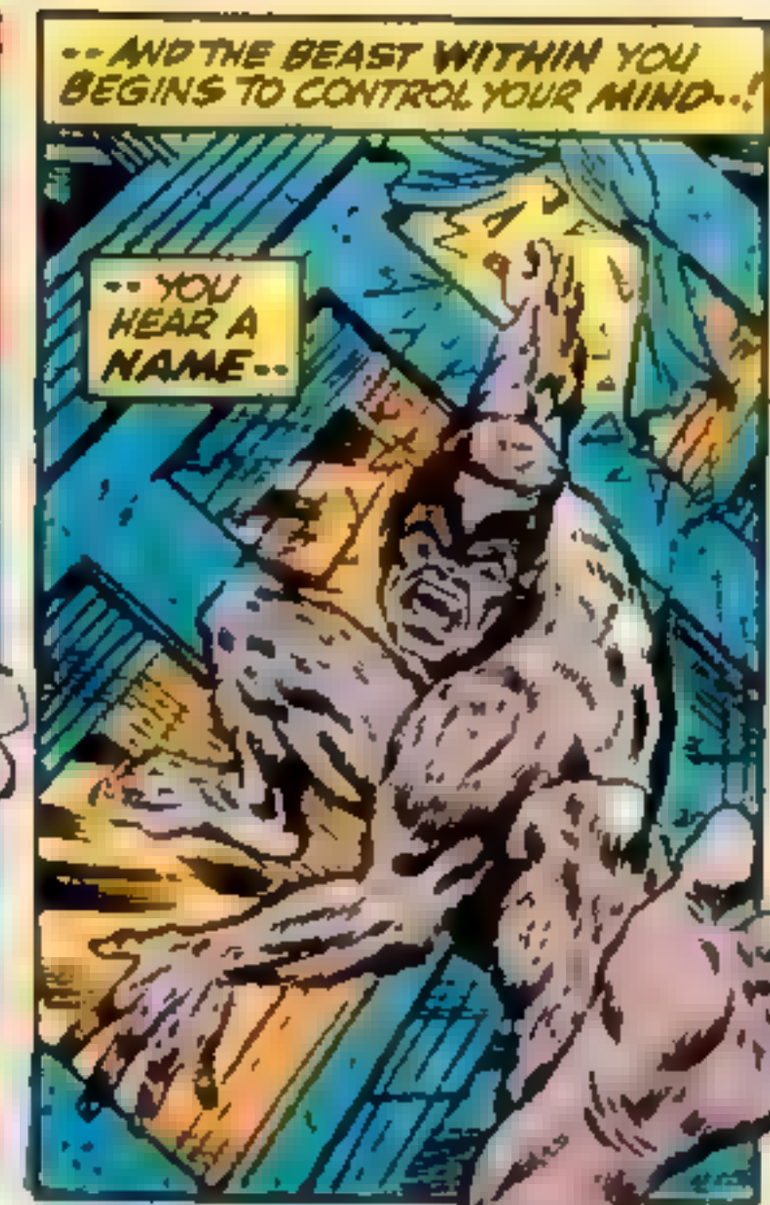

--YOU'RE NOTHING NOW-- BUT A BEAST!
A BEAST!

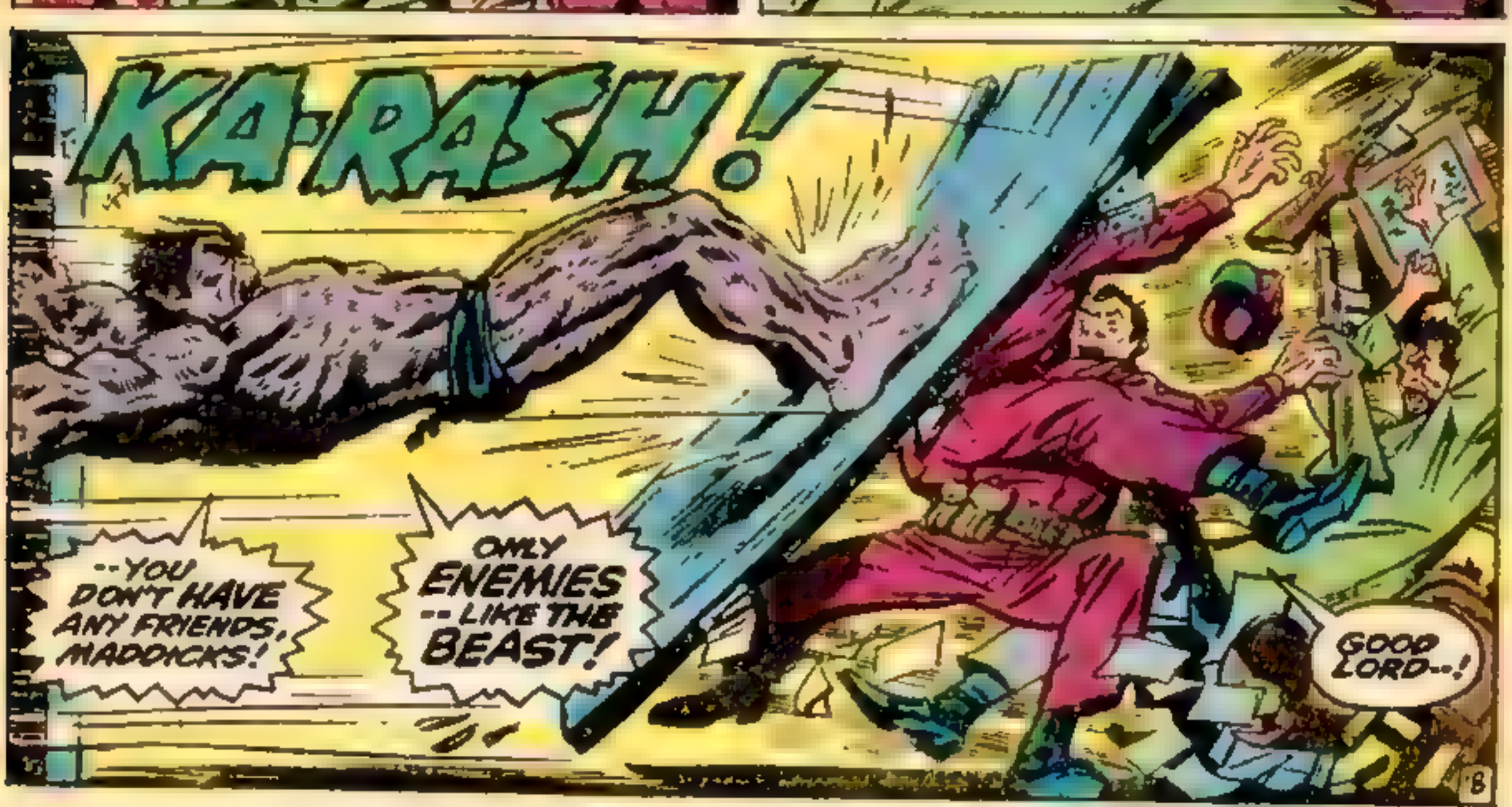

IT ALL COMES BACK, HANK---AND YOU REALIZE AGAIN THAT YOU'VE RETURNED TOO LATE---
SOMEHOW THE CHEMICAL AFFECTED MY METABOLIC TIME-SENSE--
TICK
TICK
TIME PASSED TOO SLOWLY FOR ME--
TICK-TICK-


TICK-TICK
--AND NOW I'M TRAPPED---
--THAT HOUR'S BECOME--A LIFETIME!
WHY DID I DO IT? WHAT WAS I TRYING TO PROVE?
TICK-TIC
TICK
TICK-TICK-TICK-

WHAT WAS I TRYING TO PROVE??
TICK-TICK-


SHUT UP! SHUT UP, BLAST YOU!
SHUT UP!
TIC-





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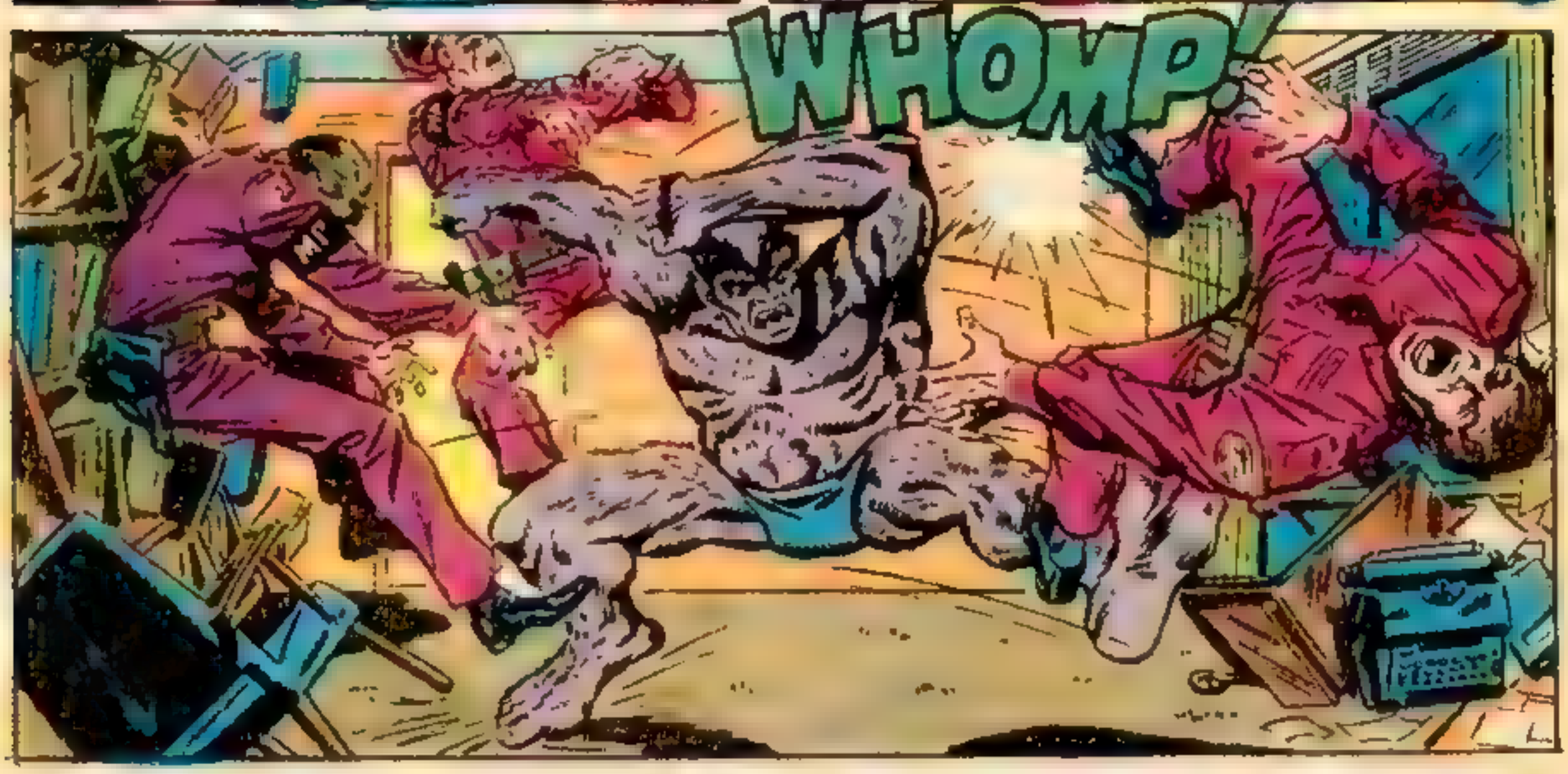
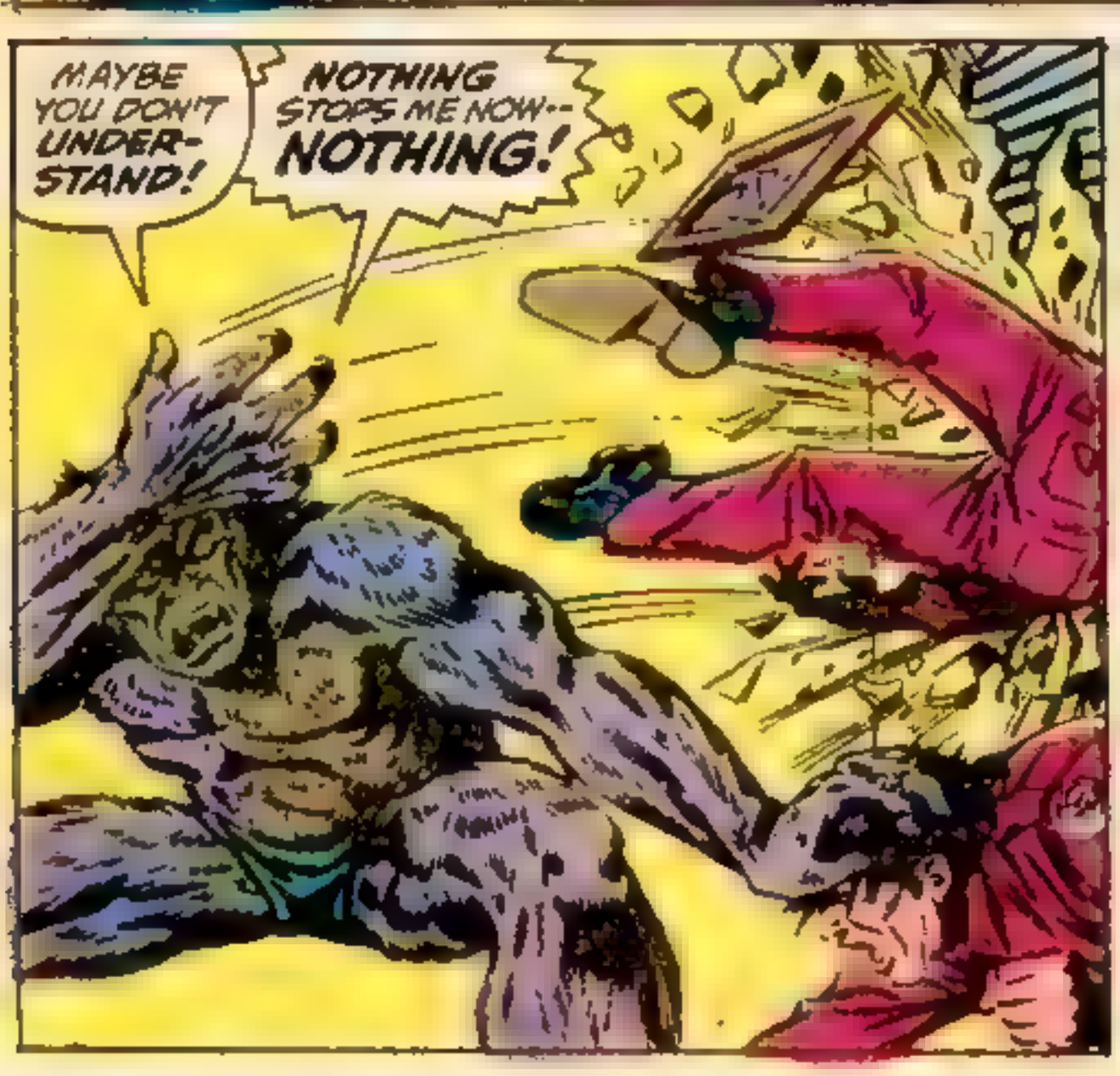
CRIPES! LOOKIT THE WAY IT'S GLARING AT MADDICKS!
DON'T LET IT NEAR H M-- IT'LL TEAR THE PROFESSOR APART!

THAT, MY FRENDS-- IS THE GENERAL IDEA!
STOP 'IM! DON T LET IT--


WHOMP!


MAYBE YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
NOTHING STOPS ME NOW-- NOTHING!

GET BACK, BLAST IT!
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE HUMAN OR NOT--
--BUT DON T MAKE ME SHOOT!
YOU FOOL--

BULLETS SLAM YOUR CHEST, KNOCK YOU BACK A STEP-- YOU FEEL THE AIR BURN IN YOUR LUNGS--
THAT'S IT-- KILL HIM! KILL HIM!

--AND THEN, THE BURNING ENDS. YOU FEEL A SURGE OF ENERGY THROUGH YOUR TORSO, THE RUSH OF RENEWING BLOOD--
--KILL-- HIM--

YOU KNOW, THEN, THAT THE HORMONAL CHANGE WITHIN YOU IS COMPLETE. YOU FEEL A SMILE PULL YOUR LIPS-- YOU SNARL---
--OH LORD--!

--YOU MOVE!
THE GUARD IS LIKE FRAGILE LEAF, AND YOU TOSS HIM ASIDE-- BEFORE YOU, MADDICKS, PALE AND SCREAMING, GOES DOWN BENEATH THE FORCE OF YOUR KICK--
YOUR MUSCLES ACHE, THE FLESH OF YOUR FINGERS TINGLES--

YOU KNOW ONLY ONE SENSATION WILL CALM YOU NOW--

--THE MOMENT OF THE KILL!
NO!

I-- ALMOST STRANGLED HIM!
AND WHY? BECAUSE HE DID THIS TO ME?
I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE--

NEXT: TO KILL AN AVENGER!

MIGHTY MARVEL IS BACK ON THE TRACK!

(Or: PLAY IT AGAIN, STAN!)

ITEM! Marvel is makin' it big all over again! The longest, grooviest article ever on the House of Ideas appeared in the September 16, 1971, ish of *Rolling Stone*. (And, just in case you've been lolling about in the Kree Galaxy for the past several years, we might add that *Rolling Stone* is the best-known bi-weekly rock-music newspaper in the ever-lovin' world!) The whole magilla was penned by R'otous ROBIN GREEN, who used to be our own Gal Friday before she wandered westward in search of fame, fortune, and a deeper suntan, and it's chock full of querulous quotes by STAN, MARIE, HERB, ROY, and just about everybody in the Bullpen. We could quote from it all day and into the night, but we figure it pretty much spoke for itself. Suffice it to say that the article generated so much interest that a couple of other writers are already working on follow-up features for the paper. Thanks again, Rob, for reminding one and all that mighty Marvel is still where it's at!

ITEM! Remember last month, when TOMB OF DRACULA and WARLOCK burst like bombshells upon an incredulous fandom? Well, just to prove we're not resting on our laurels, we've got no less than three startling new features to toss at you this time! First and foremost, for those myriad minions who've been crying for more of the ever-amazing Spider-Man, we're introducing a brand-new mag called MARVEL TEAM-UPS, which co-stars the [illegible] wall-crawler and none other tha[illegible] Human Torch — and we're [illegible] the series with an offbeat [illegible] mini-saga, to boot! Next, we [illegible] suggest you pick up the latest issue of AMAZING ADVENTURES, where you'll shake hands (if you really wanna) with none other than — the Beast, one of the extraordinary X-Men. But, is this truly the Hank McCoy of recent memory, or another, far more fearful creature of the night? This one you've gotta see to believe! And, for those stalwarts who've heralded CONAN THE BARBARIAN as the greatest thing going, we've come up with a spectacular new series called "Warrior of Mars," which debuts in the current ish of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE — where else? But, if you think *these* are something, wait'll you dig a couple of wondrous winners we'll be tossing your way in the wee small hours of 1972! Keep facin' front, pilgrim — 'cause this is the year when miraculous Marvel really gets it together!

MARVELOUS MINI-ITEMS! Did everybody in the NYC area catch Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA the other a.m., rapping on LARRY BEAR'S radio talk-show on station WABC? Johnny shared billing with three syndicated cartoonists of note — but all the eager souls who telephoned the studio wanted to ask about was Marvel, *Marvel*, MARVEL . . . And didja see Happy HERBIE TRIMPE'S hilarious comic feature in a recent ish of *Esquire*? The heroine was a takeoff on famous writer and women's-liberationist GLORIA STEINHEM, but we still kinda think she bore a suspicious resemblance to the Valkyrie, in HULK #142. Maybe Herb'll 'fess up, when he gets back from his vacation in Europe, huh? . . . If any of you have trouble recognizing some of the color-splashed superheroes who make a surprise appearance in this month's AVENGERS ish, don't sweat it. Some of 'em haven't been in a Marvel (or any other) mag in over thirty years! Could be we're showing our age? . . . As a Pig named Porky (and a Forbush named Irving) used to say: "That's all, folks!"

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, culture-lovers! This month I'm gonna try to answer the question which is asked of us more than any other. It's the plaintive, passionate poser "How do I break into the comic-book biz?" Of course, the easiest answer is "Why would you want to?", but I won't cop out that easily. (Mainly because I've still gotta fill this furshlugginer column!) So, those of you determined to become comic-book artists, face front! First of all, remember that it's one of the toughest fields to enter, because there's a limit to the mags we can publish and we've usually got more than enough artists to go around. So no matter how good you are — even if Michelangelo himself was up for grabs — there'd probably be a wait of months, even years before a strip became available. Also, you must be as good or better than the whizzes who are already drawing your favorite strips; otherwise we couldn't inflict you on the quality-oriented ranks of Marveldom Assembled. So you ask, "Then how does a beginner get experience?" Only by studying art on your own, by learning composition, anatomy, perspective, etc., until your work is of professional caliber. Obviously, we can only hire pros — artists who've already made their mark in the field of advertising, book illustration, etc. Okay then, once you've made it in some other field of art — once you've proven yourself as a professional — here's the final and most difficult step. Make up a couple of sample pages — drawn in pencil only — using whichever of our characters you prefer, but involving them in an original situation. If you copy any of our own drawings, your samples will be meaningless. We must see how you'd handle a new situation. Use sheets of 10" x 13" 2-ply illustration paper and send us photostats — not the originals 'cause we can't be responsible for any loss. If your work is overwhelming, and if a strip is ever available, and if none of our regular artists is free to handle it, you'll eventually hear from us. And if you think that's tough, wait'll you see what it takes to be a writer, coming up in a future Soapbox!

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #120: They call their mysterious new foe — the Air-Walker! Yet, wait'll you find out who he *really* is! A shocker!

SPIDER-MAN #106: The web-spinner battles to the finish with the Spider Slayer! But — whose finish? This one's a must!

THOR #196: Who could possibly smash Thor, Odin, and all the hosts of Asgard? No one but — Mangog! With a climax that'll stun you!

AVENGERS #97: At last! The cataclysmic conclusion of the Kree-Skrull War! Plus a zillion Marvel-ous guest stars!

HULK #149: They call him — The Inheritor! And what he claims as his birthright is nothing less than — this planet earth!

CAPT. AMERICA and THE FALCON #147: The Supreme Hydra unmasked! A mystery super-villain revealed! An action bonanza!

DAREDEVIL #84: Mile-high madness, as the Man Without Fear battles the power-packed Gladiator — in the deadly skies!

SUB-MARINER #47: Doctor Doom! Modok! The calamitous Cosmic Cube! And Namor — with his memory gone! Suspense plus!

IRON MAN #45: Crisis on campus, as angry students face an Avenger who dares not strike back! And that's just for openers!

CONAN #14: "A Sword Called Stormbringer!" The black-maned barbarian battles the warrior-king Elric — and the hordes of Hell!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #11: Presenting the block-busting Beast, in a series all his own! But, this is a *new* Beast — a new kind of excitement!

SGT. FURY #96: Nick Fury on the threshhold of death! Dum Dum Dugan leads the Howlers into battle! This is the big one!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #16: In the timeless tradition of Edgar Rice Burroughs and Robert E. Howard! It's "Gullivar Jones — Warrior of Mars!"

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #3: A teenager by day — a "Werewolf By Night"! Yet, can even a man-beast survive against the steel claw of — Kraig?

AMAZING MAILS

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Bullpen,

I can withhold my applause no longer. AMAZING ADVENTURES #9 was superb. My congratulations to Roy, who is second only to the master, Stan the Man. I would have liked to see the Inhumans back at the Great Refuge but with Magneto on the scene and Maximus ruling the once-great Refuge, I was too excited to remember. Roy, see if you can get these two madmen together (ah, but what a story that would be).

As good as the story was, the art was bad. This Mike Sekowsky is setting art back ten years. Black Bolt appears to be a 98-lb. weakling (which we all know he isn't). Medusa looks about as appealing as the original one in Greek legends. Do I have to go on? What happened to Neal? He was doing great. I know he took on the Avengers (that's hard), but don't leave the Inhumans defenseless.

K.O.F. Rich Spiller, 71 Harmon Rd.,
Edison, N.J. 08817

Rather than do that, Rick, we've decided to discontinue the Inhumans series and re-introduce the battling Beast instead. Only one thing confuses us, though: You were lavish in your praise for the ish #9 script of Roy Thomas—but that particular tale was penned not by our rascally associate editor at all, but by Gerry Conway. But they both tender their heartfelt thanks anyway, lad—and no hard feelings.

Dear Mr. Stan Lee, Editor,

Tell your writer(s), Mr. Conway-Thomas, to shape up or ship out! AMAZING ADVENTURES is decaying, the Inhumans are becoming stale. This is basically because of the poorly-done, long, drawn-out plot of these two writers, and also due to the sick artwork of Mr. Sekowsky. If only Jack Kirby could return to write and draw the Inhumans, you would then have a masterpiece, as were the first four issues! However, the master is busy elsewhere, writing, editing, drawing classics of his own. So now you dump the wonderful Inhumans into the hands of the Conway-Thomas-Sekowsky trio. Even Neal Adams' work is better than that of the present, topped only by Mr. Kirby's. And also give Mr. Adams a chance at writing for the Inhumans. (I hear he's very good, judging from his two Spectre stories!)

Alas, what have we now? We're going on part five of a story started in issue #5, with a poor excuse for a beginning. Black Bolt leaving on a mission to find a place for Inhumans among the mistrustful Humans? Utter INSANITY. Of all the Stupid, Idiotic things to do! Then the mistrust of Gorgon and Karnak swells to human proportions; Maximus is freed, he maroons Black Bolt in the city; he gains control of the Great Refuge; he forces Gorgon, Medusa, and Triton to flee in search of Black Bolt; Black Bolt and his human friend become entangled in a mess in the city; the exiled Inhumans also become involved with this mess; they battle Thor; then there's this madness of Magneto bit; and finally the royal family is re-united! Wow; all of that in five boring, unappealing issues . . .

Then, there is the greatest shock of all—issue #9. Twenty cents for twenty pages of story? You are a poor excuse for "inflation fighters." Because of unwise decisions and materialistic greed such as this, inflation exists. And yet another disappointment: where are the Yellow Claw and Venus as advertised in the Checklist?

There is only one good change regarding AMAZING ADVENTURES: the Inhumans finally have the entire mag for themselves. I am waiting for the 34-page Inhumans feature in issues 10, 11, 12, 13 ad infinitum.

If you continue making stupid goofs like this five-part deal and twenty cents development, you will totally ruin one of the best concepts in comic history. And so my case rests: Improve . . . Or Deteriorate . . .

Richard R. Heim, 335 N.W. 19th St.,
Lincoln, Nebraska 68528

Afraid we were 'way ahead of you in the deterioration department, lad—at least in one department. Though we've always yielded to few people in our admiration of ex-Bullpenner Jack Kirby, the fact is that those early issues of AMAZING (after the first one or two, anyway) didn't sell so well—and the mag picked up a bit under the twin captainship of Roy Thomas and Neal Adams. However, 'twould seem that there just aren't quite enough people who want to see the awesome Inhumans in their own mag, so we've decided to put them back where they functioned best—as some of the most popular, colorful supporting superheroes of all time—and try a new tack with AMAZING instead. But we asked Gerry Conway and Mike Sekowsky to help us first to wind up a few loose ends in a couple of issues—and we kinda feel they did a bang-up job in a difficult task.

Sorry to take such a long-winded approach to disagreeing with a Marvelite who sent in a well-thought-out and carefully-considered letter, but we didn't feel it was fair to let Gerry, Roy and Neal take the rap for the end of the Inhumans feature, when the trouble started long before any of them took over the feature. If nothing else, at least you can't say we didn't level with you, friend.

Dear Stan and Gerry,

I've just picked up AMAZING ADVENTURES #9 and I see why it costs a nickel more. It had more pages (to my enjoyment), and more action. Pitting Magneto against the Inhumans was a stroke of genius. The artwork was superb. I'm sure glad Black Bolt got his memory back because it's about time he was back in action. But what of Triton and Crystal? A letter from Joseph Loeb tells about Crystal and Lockjaw but there's still Triton. I last saw Triton in ish #7, where Gorgon, Medusa, Triton and Karnak were fighting some athletic youths on a California beach. During this battle, Triton suddenly started running into the water. The muscle men thought they had the Inhumans on the run, but Triton's act was a diversion as Medusa, Karnak and Gorgon ran away to look for Black Bolt. After Triton did this I never saw him again!

I also found one mistake in issue #9. In the checklist it says, and I quote, ". . . Plus—the Yellow Claw and the girl known only as Venus," unquote. I read this issue over carefully and the Yellow Claw and Venus were nowhere in it.

Mark Smith, 4536 Greenlee Rd.,
Roanoke, Va. 24018

A simple explanation there, Mark. Originally, AMAZING #9 was scheduled to be a 25¢ mag, with a full Inhumans saga plus reprints from the 50's of Bill Everett's Venus and Joe Maneely's introduction of the villainous Yellow Claw. At the last moment, though, the publishing decision was made to switch all our regular titles to 20¢ books, so the Venus tale in question was put into MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #2 instead, and the Yellow Claw will probably appear in the second smash issue of MARVEL PREMIERE, as a back-up feature to the wondrous Warlock.

As to what happened to Triton—well, you've probably read and digested AVENGERS #95 by now, so we'll let you answer that mind-staggering little query for yourself. Okay?

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (Real Frantic One)—A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags a month.

T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer) — A divinely-inspired 'No-Prize' winner.

Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayer) — A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame) — One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus) —Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer) — An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.